

CULVERT DESIGN

4.3.1 Overview

A *culvert* is a short, closed (covered) conduit that conveys stormwater runoff under an embankment, usually a roadway. The primary purpose of a culvert is to convey surface water, but properly designed it may also be used to restrict flow and reduce downstream peak flows. In addition to the hydraulic function, a culvert must also support the embankment and/or roadway, and protect traffic and adjacent property owners from flood hazards to the extent practicable.

Most culvert design is empirical and relies on nomographs and “cookbook procedures.” The purpose of the section is to provide an overview of culvert design criteria and procedures.

4.3.2 Symbols and Definitions

To provide consistency within this section as well as throughout this Manual the symbols listed in Table 4.3-1 will be used. These symbols were selected because of their wide use.

Table 4.3-1 Symbols and Definitions

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Units</u>
A	Area of cross section of flow	ft ²
B	Barrel width	ft
C _d	Overtopping discharge coefficient	--
D	Culvert diameter or barrel depth	in or ft
d	Depth of flow	ft
d _c	Critical depth of flow	ft
d _u	Uniform depth of flow	ft
g	Acceleration of gravity	ft / s
H _f	Depth of pool or head, above the face section of invert	ft
h _o	Height of hydraulic grade line above outlet invert	ft
HW	Headwater depth above invert of culvert (depth from inlet invert to upstream total energy grade line)	ft
K _e	Inlet loss coefficient	--
L	Length of culvert	ft
N	Number of barrels	--
Q	Rate of discharge	cfs
S	Slope of culvert	ft / f
TW	Tailwater depth above invert of culvert	ft
V	Mean velocity of flow	ft / s
V _c	Critical velocity	ft / s

4.3.3 Design Criteria

The design of a culvert should take into account many different engineering and technical aspects at the culvert site and adjacent areas. The County recommends that culverts be designed by a Registered Professional Geo-Technical Engineer. The following design criteria should be considered for all culvert designs as applicable.

4.3.3.1 Frequency Flood

See Section 4.1 for design storm requirements for the sizing of culverts.

The 100-year frequency storm shall be routed through all culverts to be sure building structures (e.g., houses, commercial buildings) are not flooded or increased damage does not occur to the highway or adjacent property for this design event.

4.3.3.2 Velocity Limitations

Both minimum and maximum velocities should be considered when designing a culvert. The maximum velocity should be consistent with channel stability requirements at the culvert outlet. There is no specified maximum allowable velocity for reinforced concrete pipe, but outlet protection shall be provided where discharge velocities will cause erosion problems.

4.3.3.3 Buoyancy Protection

Headwalls, endwalls, slope paving or other means of anchoring to provide buoyancy protection should be considered for all flexible culverts.

4.3.3.4 Length and Slope

The culvert length and slope should be chosen to approximate existing topography and, to the degree practicable, the culvert invert should be aligned with the channel bottom and the skew angle of the stream, and the culvert entrance should match the geometry of the roadway embankment. The maximum slope using concrete pipe is 10% before pipe-restraining methods must be taken. Maximum drop in a drainage structure is 10 feet.

4.3.3.5 Debris Control

In designing debris control structures it is recommended that the Hydraulic Engineering Circular No. 9 entitled *Debris Control Structures* be consulted.

4.3.3.6 Headwater Limitations

Headwater is water above the culvert invert at the entrance end of the culvert. The allowable headwater elevation is that elevation above which damage may be caused to adjacent property and/or the roadway and is determined from an evaluation of land use upstream of the culvert and the proposed or existing roadway elevation. It is this allowable headwater depth that is the primary basis for sizing a culvert.

The following criteria related to headwater should be considered:

- The *allowable headwater* is the depth of water that can be ponded at the upstream end of the culvert during the design flood, which will be limited by one or more of the following constraints or conditions:
 - (1) Headwater be nondamaging to upstream property
 - (2) Ponding depth be no greater than the low point in the road grade (that is not at the culvert location)
 - (3) Ponding depth be no greater than the elevation where flow diverts around the culvert
 - (4) Elevations established to delineate floodplain zoning
 - (5) 18-inch freeboard requirements
- The following HW/D criteria:
 - (1) For drainage facilities with cross-sectional area equal to or less than 30 ft², HW/D should be equal to or less than 1.5

(2) For drainage facilities with cross-sectional area greater than 30 ft², HW/D should be equal to or less than 1.2

- The headwater should be checked for the 100-year flood to ensure compliance with flood plain management criteria and for most facilities the culvert should be sized to maintain flood-free conditions on major thoroughfares with 18-inch freeboard at the low-point of the road.
- The maximum acceptable outlet velocity should be identified (see subsection 4.4.3).
- Either the headwater should be set to produce acceptable velocities, or stabilization or energy dissipation should be provided where these velocities are exceeded.
- In general, the constraint that gives the lowest allowable headwater elevation establishes the criteria for the hydraulic calculations.
- Other site-specific design considerations should be addressed as required.

4.3.3.7 Tailwater Considerations

The hydraulic conditions downstream of the culvert site must be evaluated to determine a tailwater depth for a range of discharge. At times there may be a need for calculating backwater curves to establish the tailwater conditions. The following conditions must be considered:

- If the culvert outlet is operating with a free outfall, the critical depth and equivalent hydraulic grade line should be determined.
- For culverts that discharge to an open channel, the stage-discharge curve for the channel must be determined. See Section 4.4, Open Channel Design.
- If an upstream culvert outlet is located near a downstream culvert inlet, the headwater elevation of the downstream culvert may establish the design tailwater depth for the upstream culvert.
- If the culvert discharges to a lake, pond, or other major water body, the expected high water elevation of the particular water body may establish the culvert tailwater.

4.3.3.8 Storage

If storage is being assumed or will occur upstream of the culvert, refer to subsection 4.3.4.6 regarding storage routing as part of the culvert design.

4.3.3.9 Culvert Inlets

Hydraulic efficiency and cost can be significantly affected by inlet conditions. The inlet coefficient K_e is a measure of the hydraulic efficiency of the inlet, with lower values indicating greater efficiency. Recommended inlet coefficients are given in Table 4.3-2.

4.3.3.10 Inlets with Headwalls

Headwalls may be used for a variety of reasons, including increasing the efficiency of the inlet, providing embankment stability, providing embankment protection against erosion, providing protection from buoyancy, and shortening the length of the required structure. Headwalls are required for all culverts and where buoyancy protection is necessary. If high headwater depths are to be encountered, or the approach velocity in the channel will cause scour, a short channel apron should be provided at the toe of the headwall.

This apron should extend at least one pipe diameter upstream from the entrance, and the top of the apron should not protrude above the normal streambed elevation.

Table 4.3-2 Inlet Coefficients

Type of Structure and Design of Entrance	Coefficient K_e
Pipe, Concrete	
Projecting from fill, socket end (groove-end)	0.2
Projecting from fill, square cut end	0.5
Headwall or headwall and wingwalls	0.2
Socket end of pipe (groove-end)	0.2
Square-edge	0.5
Rounded [radius = 1/12 (D)]	0.2
Mitered to conform to fill slope	0.7
* End-Section conforming to fill slope	0.5
Beveled edges, 33.7° or 45° bevels	0.2
Side- or slope-tapered inlet	0.2
Pipe, or Pipe-Arch, Corrugated Metal¹	
Projecting from fill (no headwall)	
Headwall or headwall and wingwalls square-edge	0.5
Mitered to fill slope, paved or unpaved slope	0.7
* End-Section conforming to fill slope	0.5
Beveled edges, 33.7° or 45° bevels	0.2
Side- or slope-tapered inlet	0.2
Box, Reinforced Concrete	
Headwall parallel to embankment (no wingwalls)	
Square-edged on 3 edges	0.5
Rounded on 3 edges to radius of [1/12 (D)] or beveled edges on 3	0.2
Wingwalls at 30° to 75° to barrel	
Square-edged at crown	0.4
Crown edge rounded to radius of [1/12 (D)] or beveled top edge	0.2
Wingwalls at 10° to 25° to barrel	
Square-edged at crown	0.5
Wingwalls parallel (extension of sides)	
Square-edged at crown	0.7
Side- or slope-tapered inlet	0.2

¹ Although laboratory tests have not been completed on K_e values for High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipes, the K_e values for corrugated metal pipes are recommended for HDPE pipes.

* Note: End Section conforming to fill slope, made of either metal or concrete, are the sections commonly available from manufacturers. From limited hydraulic tests, they are equivalent in operation to a headwall in both inlet and outlet control.

Source: HDS No. 5, 1985

4.3.3.11 Wingwalls and Aprons

Wingwalls are used where the side slopes of the channel adjacent to the entrance are unstable or where the culvert is skewed to the normal channel flow.

4.3.3.12 Improved Inlets

Where inlet conditions control the amount of flow that can pass through the culvert, improved inlets can greatly increase the hydraulic performance of the culvert.

4.3.3.13 Material Selection

Culverts shall be constructed of Class III reinforced concrete pipe, Class IV reinforced concrete pipe, as appropriate or concrete box culverts. Design of said facilities shall be in accordance with GA DOT standards specification and construction standards.

4.3.3.14 Culvert Skews

Culvert skews shall not exceed 45 degrees as measured from a line perpendicular to the roadway centerline without approval.

4.3.3.15 Culvert Sizes

The minimum allowable pipe diameter shall be 18 inches. Do not discharge the contents of a larger pipe into a smaller one even though the capacity of the smaller pipe may be greater due to a steeper slope. At the discretion of Columbia County, the design of all portions of a drainage system which is expected to carry between 50 and 150 cfs for the 100-year storm event shall be based on the 100-year plus three foot elevation if one of the following conditions exists:

1. The estimated runoff would create a hazard for all adjacent property or residents; or
2. The flood limits would be of such magnitude that adjacent residents should be informed of these limits.

For all portions of the drainage system which are expected to carry 150 cfs or more for the 100-year storm event, the 100-year plus three feet flood elevation shall be computed and shown within the Stormwater Management Plan.

4.3.3.16 Weep Holes

Weep holes are sometimes used to relieve uplift pressure. Filter materials should be used in conjunction with the weep holes in order to intercept the flow and prevent the formation of piping channels. The filter materials should be designed as an underdrain filter so as not to become clogged and so that piping can not occur through the pervious material and the weep hole.

Table 4.3-3 Manning's n values

Type of Conduit	Wall & Joint Description	Manning's n
Concrete Pipe	Good joints, smooth walls	0.012
	Good joints, rough walls	0.016
	Poor joints, rough walls	0.017
Concrete Box	Good joints, smooth finished walls	0.012
	Poor joints, rough, unfinished walls	0.018
Corrugated Metal Pipes and Boxes Annular Corrugations	2 2/3-inch by 1/2-inch corrugations	0.024
	6-inch by 1-inch corrugations	0.025
	5-inch by 1 inch corrugations	0.026
	3-inch by 1-inch corrugations	0.028
	6-inch by 2-inch structural plate	0.035
	9-inch by 2 1/2-inch structural plate	0.035
Corrugated Metal Pipes, Helical Corrugations, Full Circular Flow	2 2/3-inch by 1/2-inch corrugated 24-inch plate width	0.012
Spiral Rib Metal Pipe	3/4 by 3/4 in recesses at 12-inch spacing, good joints	0.013
High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)	Corrugated Smooth Line	0.015
	Corrugated	0.02
Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)		0.011

Source: HDS No. 5, 1985

Note: For further information concerning Manning n values for selected conduits, consult Hydraulic design of Highway Culverts, Federal Highway Administration, HDS No. 5, page 163

4.3.3.17 Outlet Protection

See Section 4.5 for information on the design of outlet protection. Outlet protection should be provided for the 25-year storm. For erosive velocity in addition to rip-rap other energy dissipation control measures will be required.

4.3.3.18 Erosion and Sediment Control

Erosion and sediment control shall be in accordance with the latest approved Columbia County Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance. See also the Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia for design standards and details related to erosion and sediment control.

4.3.3.19 Environmental Considerations

Where compatible with good hydraulic engineering, a site should be selected that will permit the culvert to be constructed to cause the least impact on the stream or wetlands. This selection must consider the entire site, including any necessary lead channels.

4.3.4 Design Procedures

4.3.4.1 Types of Flow Control

There are two types of flow conditions for culverts that are based upon the location of the control section and the critical flow depth:

Inlet Control – Inlet control occurs when the culvert barrel is capable of conveying more flow than the inlet will accept. This typically happens when a culvert is operating on a steep slope. The control section of a culvert is located just inside the entrance. Critical depth occurs at or near this location, and the flow regime immediately downstream is supercritical.

Outlet Control – Outlet control flow occurs when the culvert barrel is not capable of conveying as much flow as the inlet opening will accept. The control section for outlet control flow in a culvert is located at the barrel exit or further downstream. Either subcritical or pressure flow exists in the culvert barrel under these conditions.

Proper culvert design and analysis requires checking for both inlet and outlet control to determine which will govern particular culvert designs. For more information on inlet and outlet control, see the FHWA Hydraulic Design of Highway Culverts, HDS-5, 1985.

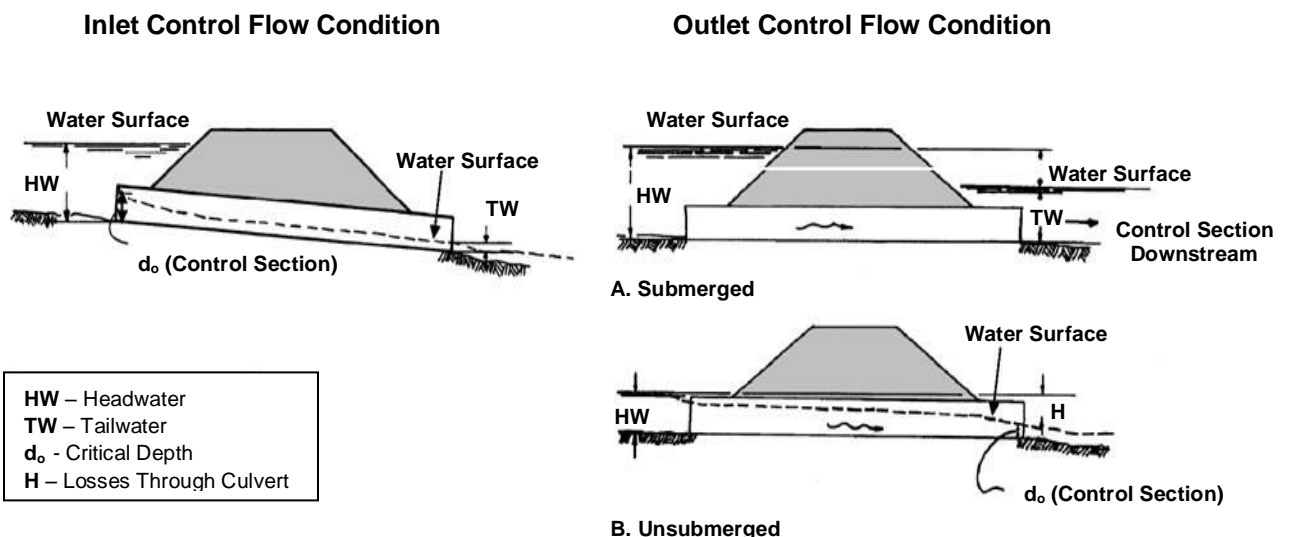


Figure 4.3-1 Culvert Flow Conditions

(Adapted from: HDS-5, 1985)

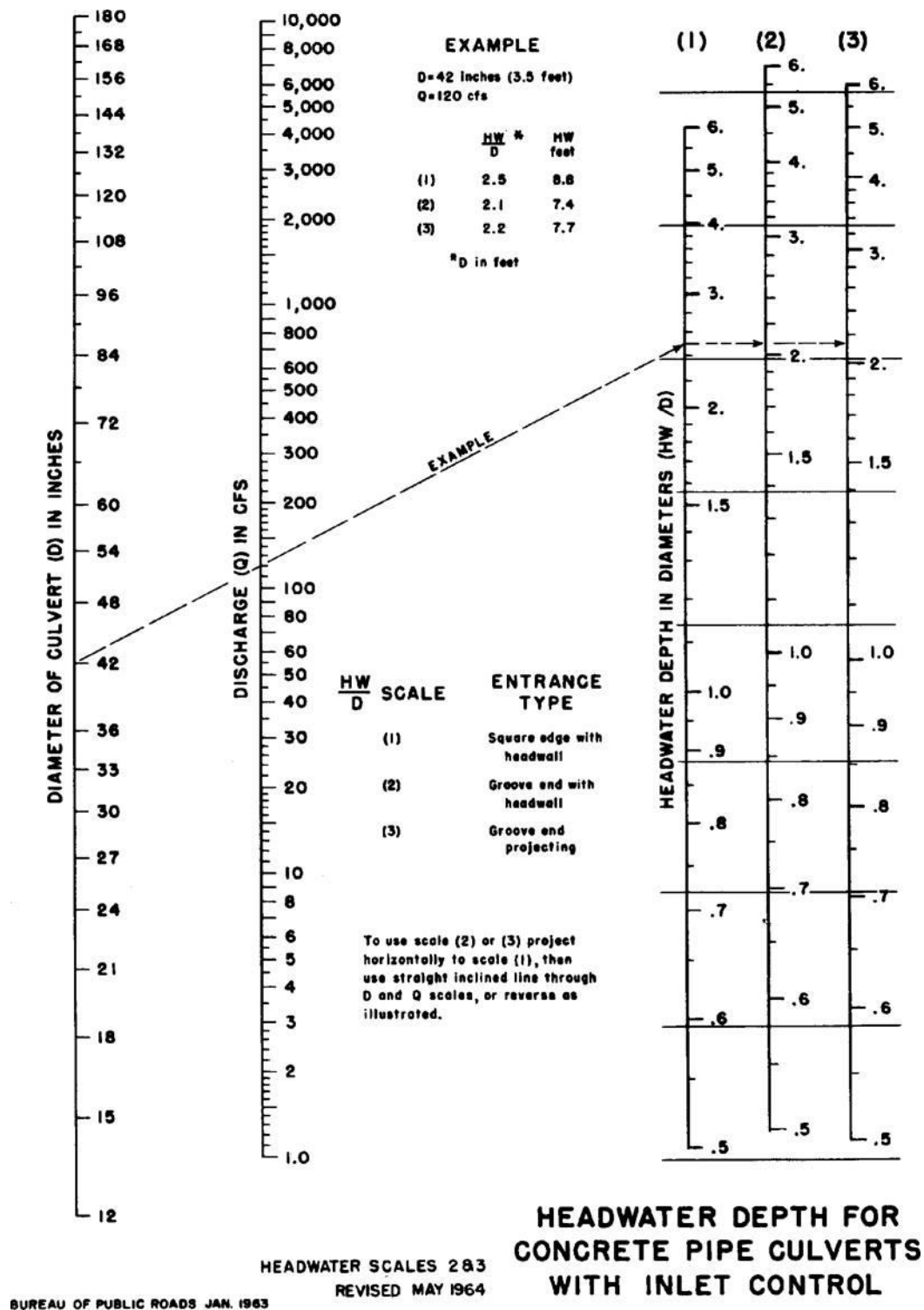
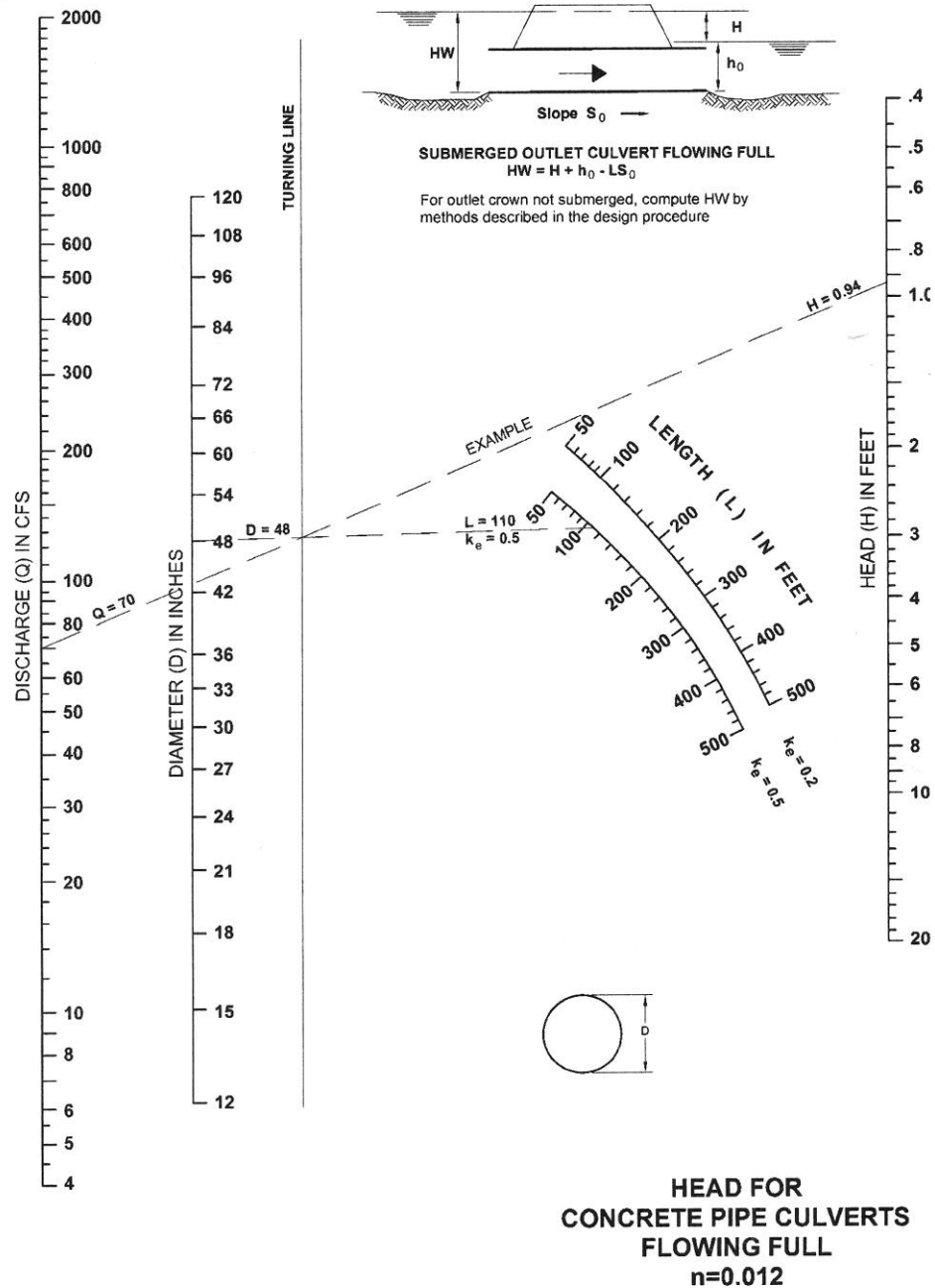


Figure 4.3-2(a) Headwater Depth for Concrete Pipe Culvert with Inlet Control



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Figure 4.3-2(b) Head for Concrete Pipe Culverts Flowing Full

4.3.4.2 Procedures

There are two procedures for designing culverts: manual use of inlet and outlet control nomographs, and the use computer programs such as HY8. It is recommended that the HY8 computer model or equivalent be used for culvert design. The computer software package HYDRAIN, which includes HY8, uses the theoretical basis from the nomographs to size culverts.

In addition, this software can evaluate improved inlets, route hydrographs, consider road overtopping, and evaluate outlet streambed scour. By using water surface profiles, this procedure is more accurate in predicting backwater effects and outlet scour.

4.3.4.3 Nomographs

The use of culvert design nomographs requires a trial and error solution. Nomograph solutions provide reliable designs for many applications. It should be remembered that velocity, hydrograph routing, roadway overtopping, and outlet scour require additional, separate computations beyond what can be obtained from the nomographs. Figures 4.3-2(a) and (b) show examples of an inlet control and outlet control nomograph for the design of concrete pipe culverts. For other culvert designs, refer to the complete set of nomographs in subsection 4.3.8.

4.3.4.4 Design Procedure

The following design procedure requires the use of inlet and outlet nomographs.

Step 1: List design data:

Q = discharge (cfs)	L = culvert length (ft)
S = culvert slope (ft/ft)	TW = tailwater depth (ft)
V = velocity for trial diameter (ft/s)	K_e = inlet loss coefficient
HW = allowable headwater depth for the design storm (ft)	

Step 2: Determine trial culvert size by assuming a trial velocity 3 to 5 ft/s and computing the culvert area, $A = Q/V$. Determine the culvert diameter (inches).

Step 3: Find the actual HW for the trial size culvert for both inlet and outlet control.

- For inlet control, enter inlet control nomograph with D and Q and find HW/D for the proper entrance type.
- Compute HW and, if too large or too small, try another culvert size before computing HW for outlet control.
- For outlet control enter the outlet control nomograph with the culvert length, entrance loss coefficient, and trial culvert diameter.
- To compute HW, connect the length scale for the type of entrance condition and culvert diameter scale with a straight line, pivot on the turning line, and draw a straight line from the design discharge through the turning point to the head loss scale H. Compute the headwater elevation HW from the equation:

$$HW = H + h_o - LS \quad (4.3.1)$$

Where: h_o = $\frac{1}{2}$ (critical depth + D), or tailwater depth, whichever is greater

L = culvert length

S = culvert slope

Step 4: Compare the computed headwaters and use the higher HW nomograph to determine if the culvert is under inlet or outlet control.

- If inlet control governs, then the design is complete and no further analysis is required.

- If outlet control governs and the HW is unacceptable, select a larger trial size and find another HW with the outlet control nomographs. Since the smaller size of culvert had been selected for allowable HW by the inlet control nomographs, the inlet control for the larger pipe need not be checked.

Step 5: Calculate exit velocity and if erosion problems might be expected, refer to Section 4.5 for appropriate energy dissipation designs.

4.3.4.5 Performance Curves - Roadway Overtopping

A performance curve for any culvert can be obtained from the nomographs by repeating the steps outlined above for a range of discharges that are of interest for that particular culvert design. A graph is then plotted of headwater versus discharge with sufficient points so that a curve can be drawn through the range of interest. These curves are applicable through a range of headwater, velocities, and scour depths versus discharges for a length and type of culvert. Usually charts with length intervals of 25 to 50 feet are satisfactory for design purposes. Such computations are made much easier by the use of computer programs.

To complete the culvert design, roadway overtopping should be analyzed. A performance curve showing the culvert flow as well as the flow across the roadway is a useful analysis tool. Rather than using a trial and error procedure to determine the flow division between the overtopping flow and the culvert flow, an overall performance curve can be developed.

The overall performance curve can be determined as follows:

- Step 1:** Select a range of flow rates and determine the corresponding headwater elevations for the culvert flow alone. The flow rates should fall above and below the design discharge and cover the entire flow range of interest. Both inlet and outlet control headwaters should be calculated.
- Step 2:** Combine the inlet and outlet control performance curves to define a single performance curve for the culvert.
- Step 3:** When the culvert headwater elevations exceed the roadway crest elevation, overtopping will begin. Calculate the equivalent upstream water surface depth above the roadway (crest of weir) for each selected flow rate. Use these water surface depths and equation 4.3.2 to calculate flow rates across the roadway.

$$Q = C_d L (HW)^{1.5} \quad (4.3.2)$$

Where: Q = overtopping flow rate (ft³/s)

C_d = overtopping discharge coefficient

L = length of roadway (ft)

HW = upstream depth, measured from the roadway crest to the water surface upstream of the weir drawdown (ft)

Note: See Figure 4.3-3 on the next page for guidance in determining a value for C_d. For more information on calculating overtopping flow rates see pages 39 – 42 in HDS No. 5.

- Step 4:** Add the culvert flow and the roadway overtopping flow at the corresponding headwater elevations to obtain the overall culvert performance curve.

4.3.4.6 Storage Routing

A significant storage capacity behind a highway embankment attenuates a flood hydrograph. Because of the reduction of the peak discharge associated with this attenuation, the required capacity of the culvert, and its size, may be reduced considerably. If significant storage is anticipated behind a culvert, the design should be checked by routing the design hydrographs through the culvert to determine the discharge and stage behind the culvert. See subsection 4.3.7 and Section 2.2 for more information on routing. Additional routing procedures are outlined in Hydraulic Design of Highway Culverts, Section V - Storage Routing, HDS No. 5, Federal Highway Administration.

Note: Storage should be taken into consideration only if the storage area will remain available for the life of the culvert as a result of purchase of ownership or right-of-way or an easement has been acquired.

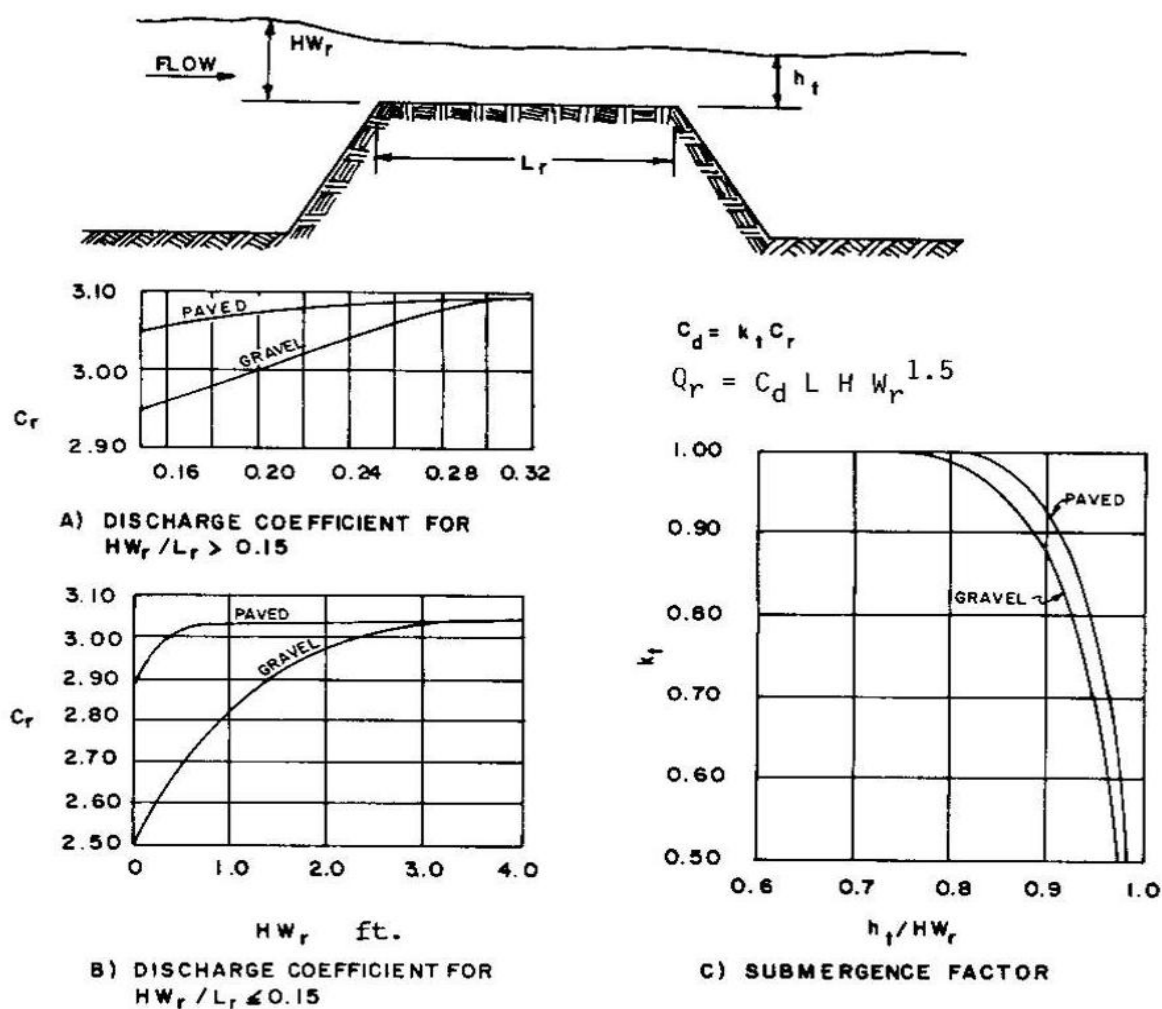


Figure 4.3-3 Discharge Coefficients for Roadway Overtopping

(Source: HDS No. 5, 1985)

4.3.5 Culvert Design Example

4.3.5.1 Introduction

The following example problem illustrates the procedures to be used in designing culverts using the nomographs.

4.3.5.2 Example

Size a culvert given the following example data, which were determined by physical limitations at the culvert site and hydraulic procedures described elsewhere in this handbook.

4.3.5.3 Example Data

Input Data

Discharge for 2-yr flood = 35 cfs
Discharge for 25-yr flood = 70 cfs
Allowable HW for 25-yr discharge = 5.25 ft
Length of culvert = 100 ft
Natural channel invert elevations - inlet = 15.50 ft, outlet = 14.30 ft
Culvert slope = 0.012 ft/ft
Tailwater depth for 25-yr discharge = 3.5 ft
Tailwater depth is the normal depth in downstream channel
Entrance type = Groove end with headwall

4.3.5.4 Computations

- (1) Assume a culvert velocity of 5 ft/s. Required flow area = **70 cfs / 5 ft/s = 14 ft²** (for the 25-yr recurrence flood).
- (2) The corresponding culvert diameter is about 48 in. This can be calculated by using the formula for area of a circle: **Area = (3.14D²) / 4** or **D = (Area times 4 / 3.14)^{0.5}**
Therefore: **D = ((14 sq ft * 4) / 3.14)^{0.5} * 12 in/ft = 50.7 in**
- (3) A grooved end culvert with a headwall is selected for the design. Using the inlet control nomograph (Figure 4.3-1), with a pipe diameter of 48 inches and a discharge of 70 cfs; read a HW/D value of 0.93.
- (4) The depth of headwater (HW) is **(0.93) * (4) = 3.72 ft**, which is less than the allowable headwater of 5.25 ft. Since 3.72 ft is considerably less than 5.25 try a small culvert.
- (5) Using the same procedures outlined in steps 4 and 5 the following results were obtained.
42-inch culvert – HW = 4.13 ft
36-inch culvert – HW = 4.98 ft
Select a 36-inch culvert to check for outlet control.
- (6) The culvert is checked for outlet control by using Figure 4.3-2.
With an entrance loss coefficient K_e of 0.20, a culvert length of 100 ft, and a pipe diameter of 36 in., an H value of 2.8 ft is determined. The headwater for outlet control is computed by the equation: **HW = h_o – LS**
Compute h_o
 $h_o = T_w$ or % (critical depth in culvert + D), whichever is greater.
 $h_o = 3.5$ ft pr $h_o = 1/2(2.7 + 3.0) = 2.85$ ft
Note: critical depth is obtained from Chart 4 on page 4.3-20

Therefore: $h_o = 3.5$ ft

The headwater depth for outlet control is:

$$HW = H + h_o - LS = 2.8 + 3.5 - (100) * (0.012) = 5.10 \text{ ft}$$

- (7) Since HW for inlet outlet (5.10 ft) is greater than the HW for inlet control (4.98 ft), outlet control governs the culvert design. Thus, the maximum headwater expected for a 25-year recurrence flood is 5.10 ft, which is less than the allowable headwater of 5.25 ft.
- (8) Estimate outlet exit velocity. Since this culvert is on outlet control and discharges into an open channel downstream with tailwater above culvert, the culvert will be flowing full at the flow depth in the channel. Using the design peak discharge of 70 cfs and the area of a 36-inch or 3.0-foot diameter culvert the exit velocity will be:

$$Q = VA$$

$$\text{Therefore: } V = 706 / (3.14(3.0)^2) / 4 = 9.9 \text{ ft/s}$$

With this high velocity, consideration should be given to provide an energy dissipater at the culvert outlet. See Section 4.5 (*Energy Dissipation Design*).

- (9) Check for minimum velocity using the 2-year flow of 35 cfs. Therefore:
 $V = 35 / (3.14(3.0)^2) / 4 = 5.0 \text{ ft/s} > \text{minimum of } 2.5 - \text{OK}$
- (10) The 100-year flow should be routed through the culvert to determine if any flooding problems will be associated with this flood.

Figure 4.3-4 provides a convenient form to organize culvert design calculations.

[illegible]

Figure 4.3-4 Culvert Design Calculation Form

(Source: HDS No. 5, 1985)

4.3.6 Design Procedures for Beveled-Edged Inlets

4.3.6.1 Introduction

Improved inlets include inlet geometry refinements beyond those normally used in conventional culvert design practice. Several degrees of improvements are possible, including bevel-edged, side-tapered, and slope-tapered inlets. Those designers interested in using side- and slope-- tapered inlets should consult the detailed design criteria and example designs outlined in the U. S. Department of Transportation publication Hydraulic Engineering Circular No. 5 entitled, Hydraulic Design of Highway Culverts.

4.3.6.2 Design Figures

Four inlet control figures for culverts with beveled edges are included in subsection 4.3.8.

Chart	Page	Use for:
3	4.3-19	circular pipe culverts with beveled rings
10	4.3-26	90o headwalls (same for 90 ° wingwalls)
11	4.3-27	skewed headwalls
12	4.3-28	wingwalls with flare angles of 18 to 45 degrees

The following symbols are used in these figures:

B - Width of culvert barrel or diameter of pipe culvert

D - Height of box culvert or diameter of pipe culvert

H_f - Depth of pool or head, above the face section of invert

N - Number of barrels

Q - Design discharge

4.3.6.3 Design Procedure

The figures for bevel-edged inlets are used for design in the same manner as the conventional inlet design nomographs discussed earlier. Note that Charts 10, 11, and 12 in subsection 4.3.8 apply only to bevels having either a 33 ° angle (1.5:1) or a 45 ° angle (1:1).

For box culverts the dimensions of the bevels to be used are based on the culvert dimensions. The top bevel dimension is determined by multiplying the height of the culvert by a factor. The side bevel dimensions are determined by multiplying the width of the culvert by a factor. For a 1:1 bevel, the factor is 0.5 inch/ft. For a 1.5:1 bevel the factor is 1 inch/ft. For example, the minimum bevel dimensions for an 8 ft x 6 ft box culvert with 1:1 bevels would be:

$$\text{Top Bevel} = d = 6 \text{ ft} \times 0.5 \text{ inch/ft} = 3 \text{ inches}$$

$$\text{Side Bevel} = b = 8 \text{ ft} \times 0.5 \text{ inch/ft} = 4 \text{ inches}$$

For a 1.5:1 bevel computations would result in d = 6 and b = 8 inches.

4.3.6.4 Design Figure Limits

The improved inlet design figures are based on research results from culvert models with barrel width, B, to depth, D, ratios of from 0.5:1 to 2:1. For box culverts with more than one barrel, the figures are used in the same manner as for a single barrel, except that the bevels must be sized on the basis of the total clear opening rather than on individual barrel size.

For example, in a double 8 ft by 8 ft box culvert:

Top Bevel is proportioned based on the height of 8 feet which results in a bevel of 4 in. for the 1:1 bevel and 8 in. for the 1.5:1 bevel.

Side Bevel is proportioned based on the clear width of 16 feet, which results in a bevel of 8 in. for the 1:1 bevel and 16 in. for the 1.5:1 bevel.

4.3.6.5 Multibarrel Installations

For multibarrel installations exceeding a 3:1 width to depth ratio, the side bevels become excessively large when proportioned on the basis of the total clear width. For these structures, it is recommended that the side bevel be sized in proportion to the total clear width, B, or three times the height, whichever is smaller.

The top bevel dimension should always be based on the culvert height.

The shape of the upstream edge of the intermediate walls of multibarrel installations is not as important to the hydraulic performance of a culvert as the edge condition of the top and sides. Therefore, the edges of these walls may be square, rounded with a radius of one-half their thickness, chamfered, or beveled. The intermediate walls may also project from the face and slope downward to the channel bottom to help direct debris through the culvert.

Multibarrel pipe culverts should be designed as a series of single barrel installations since each pipe requires a separate bevel.

4.3.6.6 Skewed Inlets

It is recommended that Chart 11 for skewed inlets not be used for multiple barrel installations, as the intermediate wall could cause an extreme contraction in the downstream barrels. This would result in underdesign due to a greatly reduced capacity. Skewed inlets (at an angle with the centerline of the stream) should be avoided whenever possible and should not be used with side- or slope-tapered inlets. It is important to align culverts with streams in order to avoid erosion problems associated with changing the direction of the natural stream flow.

4.3.7 Flood Routing and Culvert Design

4.3.7.1 Introduction

Flood routing through a culvert is a practice that evaluates the effect of temporary upstream ponding caused by the culvert's backwater. By not considering flood routing it is possible that the findings from culvert analyses will be conservative. If the selected allowable headwater is accepted without flood routing, then costly overdesign of both the culvert and outlet protection may result, depending on the amount of temporary storage involved. However, if storage is used in the design of culverts, consideration should be given to:

- The total area of flooding,
- The average time that bankfull stage is exceeded for the design flood up to 48 hours in rural areas or 6 hours in urban areas, and
- Ensuring that the storage area will remain available for the life of the culvert through the purchase of right-of-way or easement.

4.3.7.2 Design Procedure

The design procedure for flood routing through a culvert is the same as for reservoir routing. The site data and roadway geometry are obtained and the hydrology analysis completed to include estimating a hydrograph. Once this essential information is available, the culvert can be designed. Flood routing through a culvert can be time consuming. It is recommended that a computer program be used to perform routing calculations; however, an engineer should be familiar with the culvert flood routing design process.

A multiple trial and error procedure is required for culvert flood routing. In general:

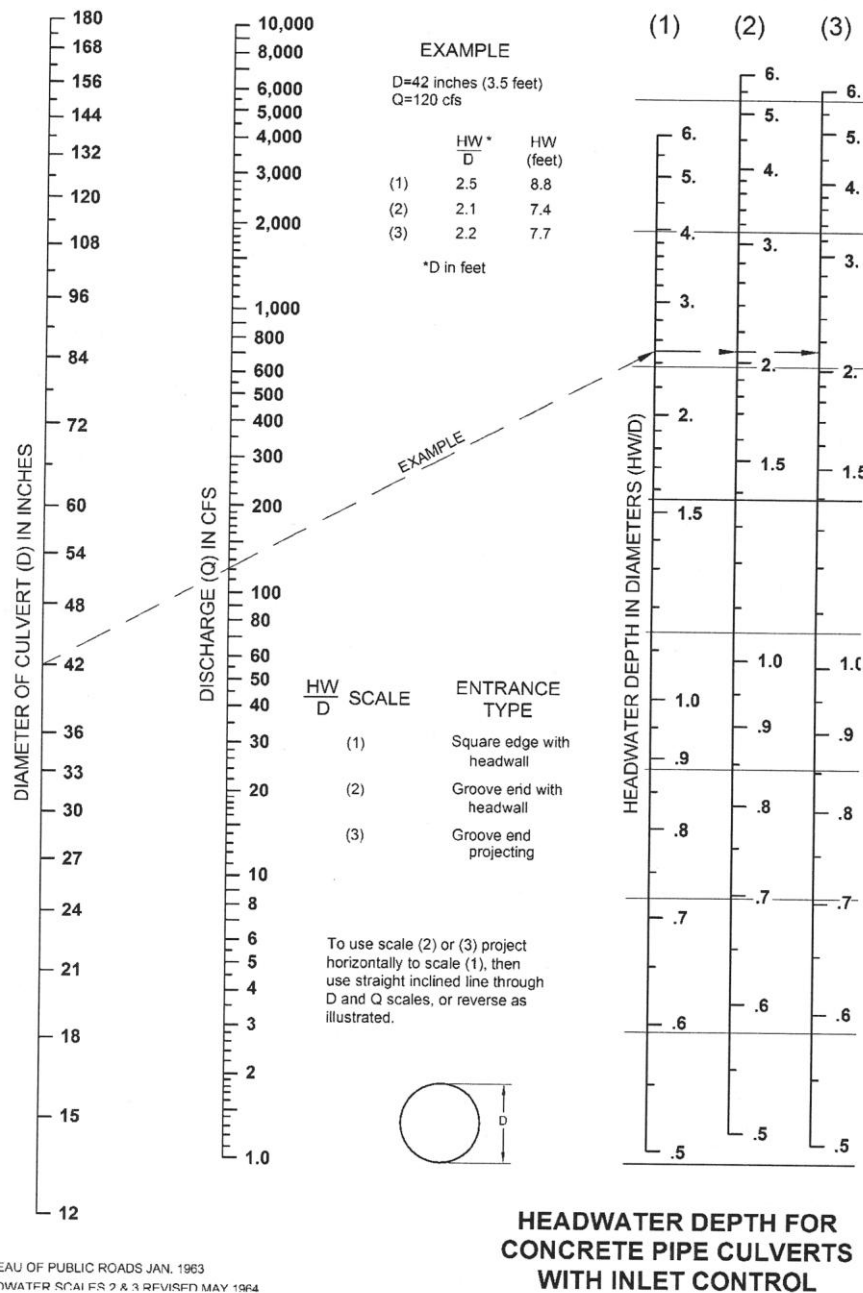
- Step 1:** A trial culvert(s) is selected
- Step 2:** A trial discharge for a particular hydrograph time increment (selected time increment to estimate discharge from the design hydrograph) is selected
- Step 3:** Flood routing computations are made with successive trial discharges until the flood routing equation is satisfied

- Step 4:** The hydraulic findings are compared to the selected site criteria
- Step 5:** If the selected site criteria are satisfied, then a trial discharge for the next time increment is selected and this procedure is repeated; if not, a new trial culvert is selected and the entire procedure is repeated.

4.3.8 Culvert Design Charts and Nomographs

All of the figures in this section are from the AASHTO Model Drainage Manual, 1991.

CHART 1



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1963
 HEADWATER SCALES 2 & 3 REVISED MAY 1964

CHART 2

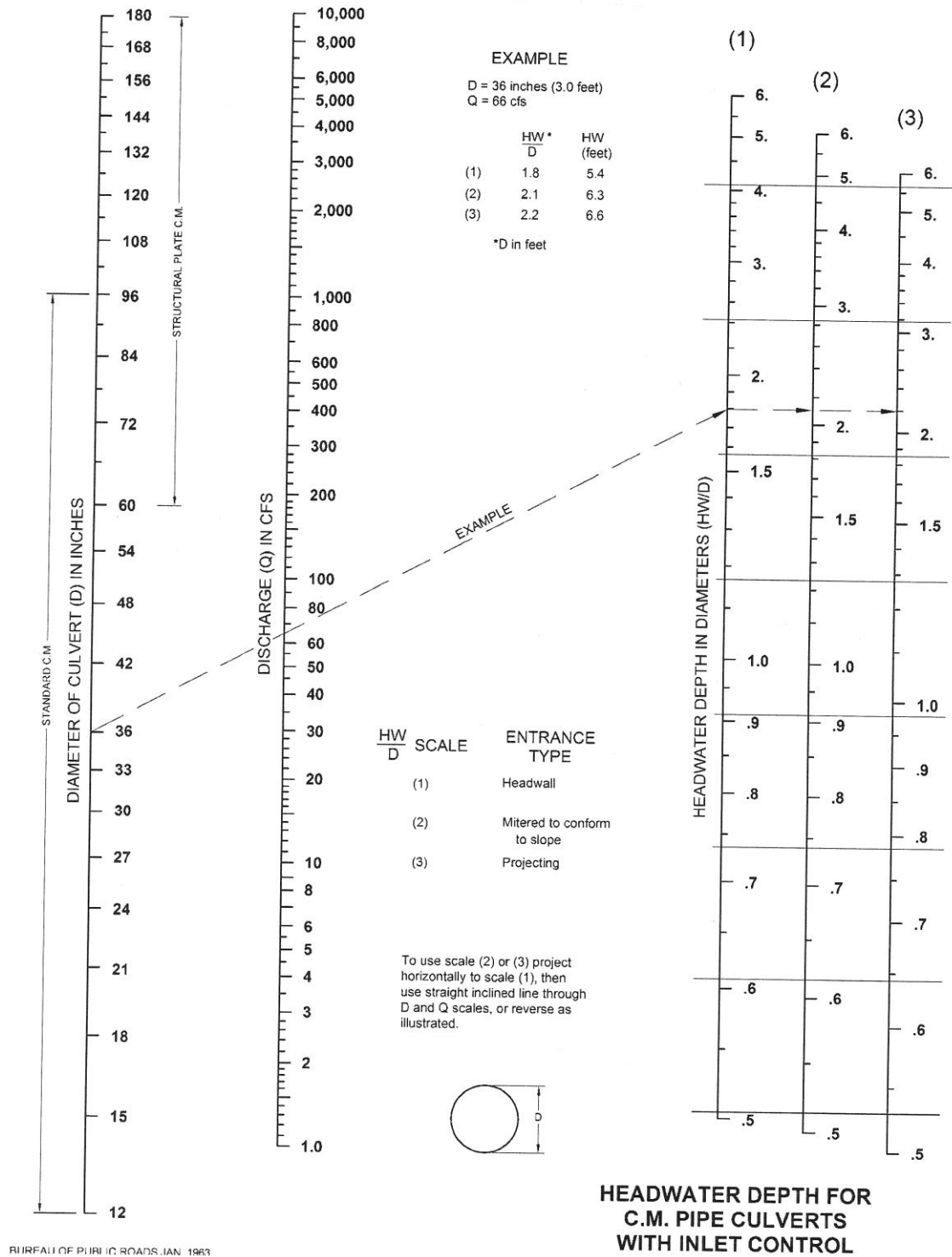
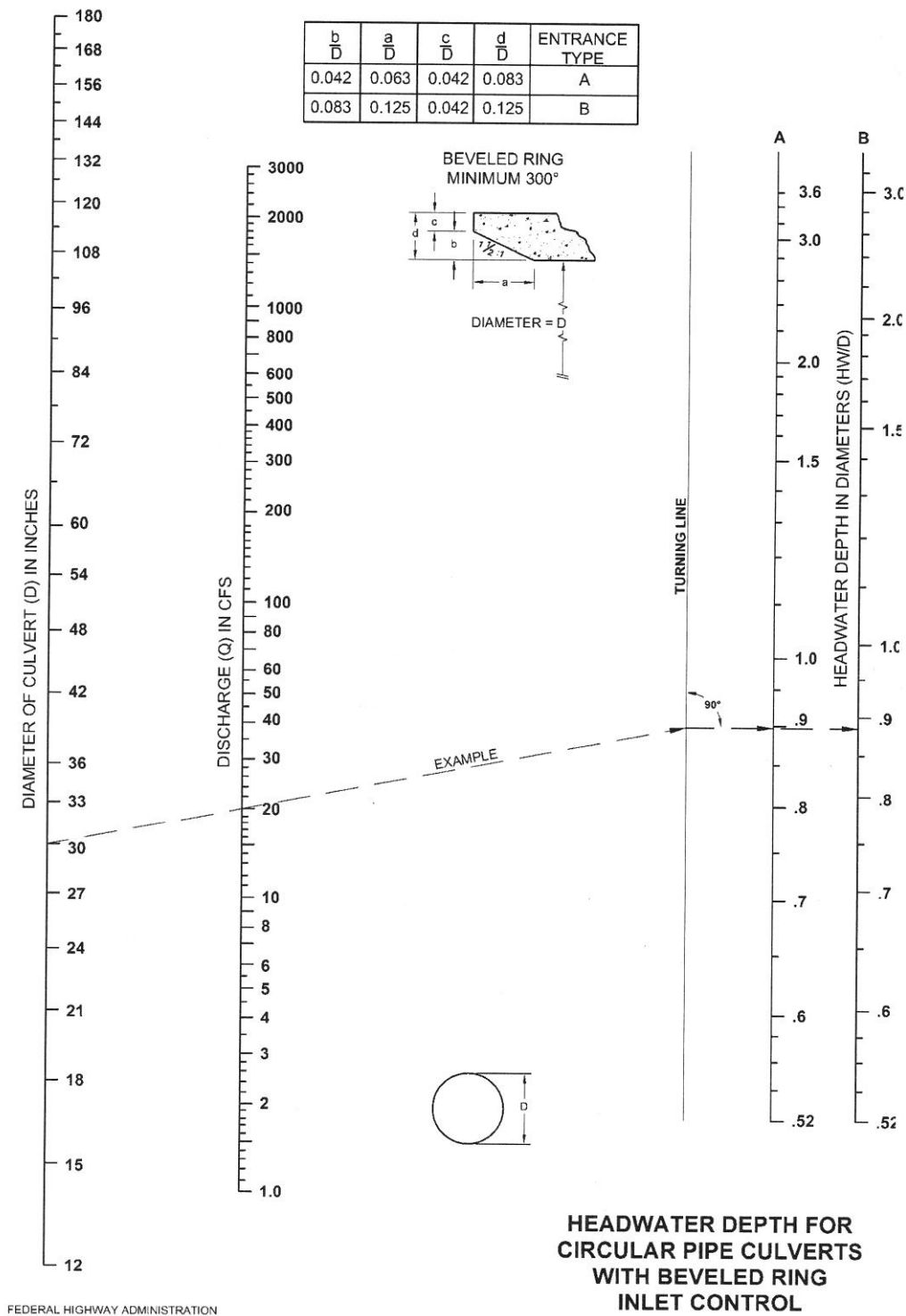
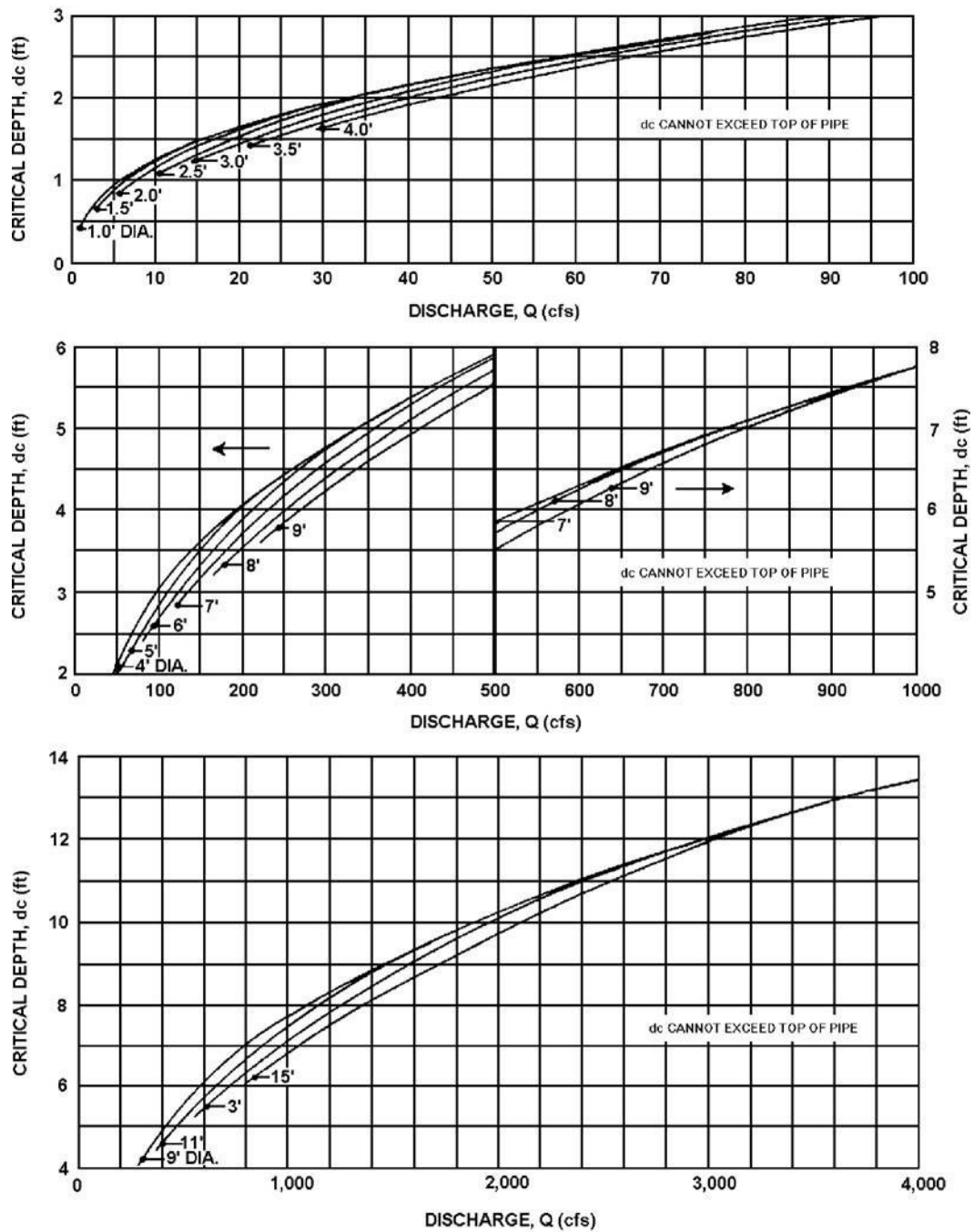


CHART 3



FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
MAY 1973

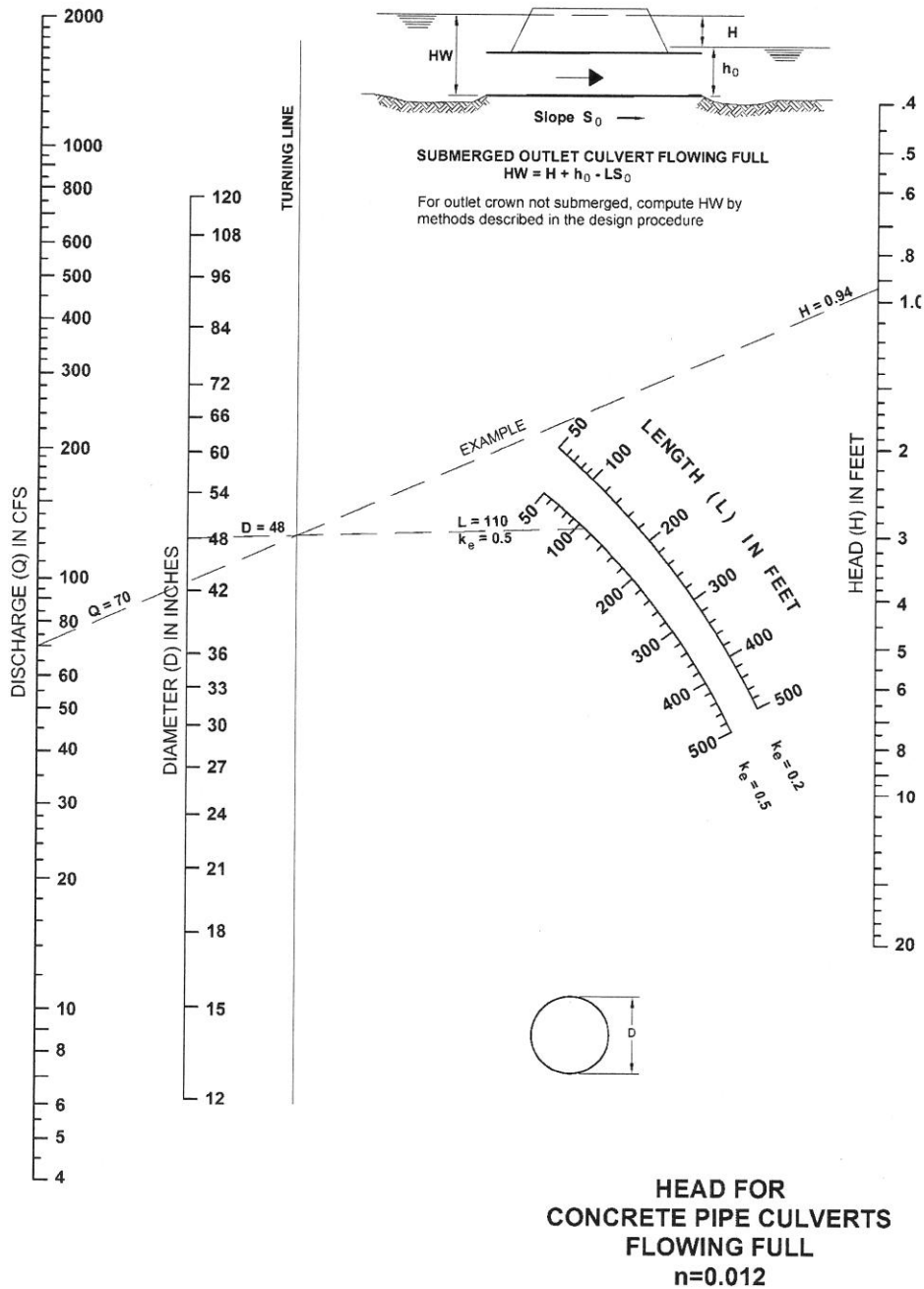
CHART 4



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1964

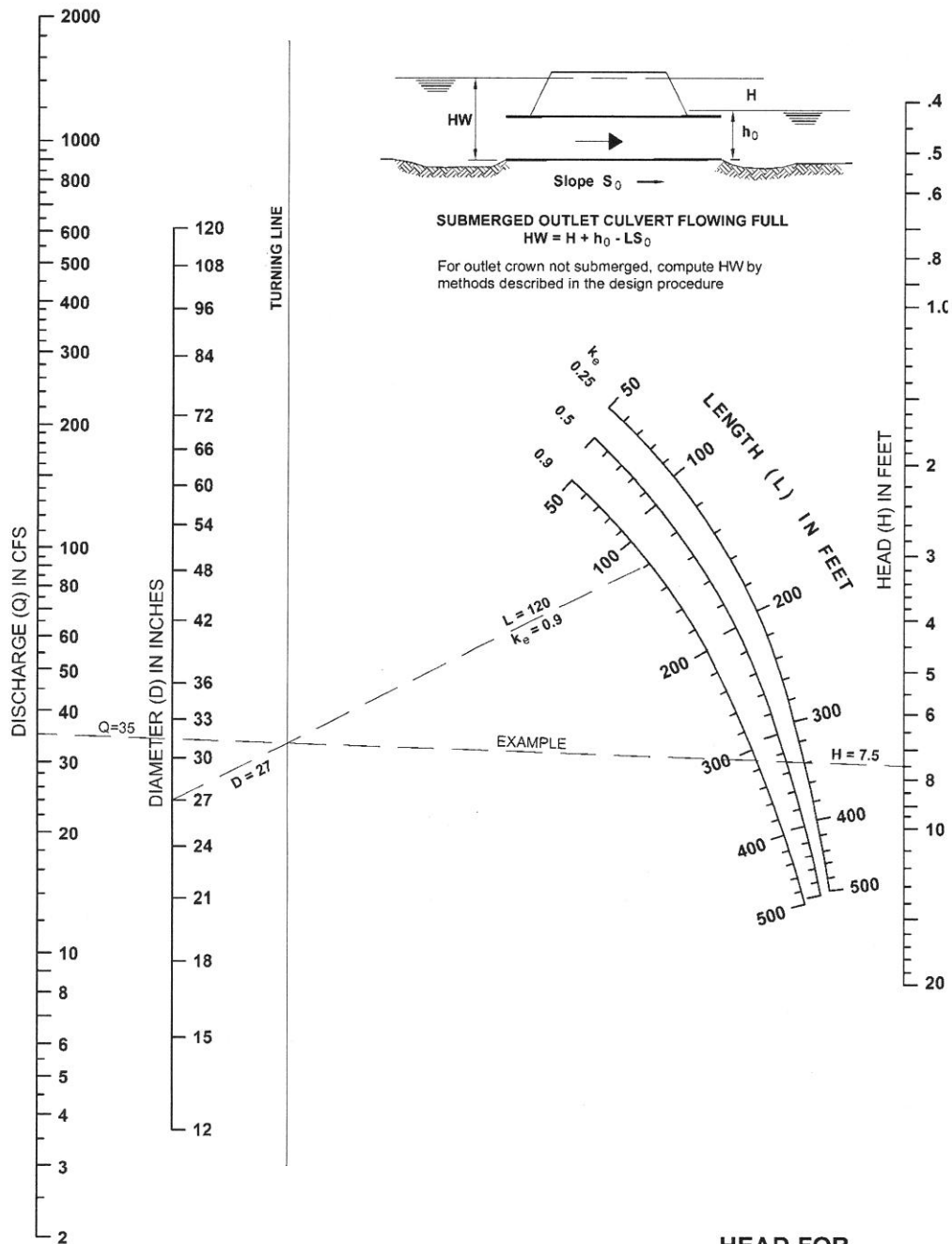
**CRITICAL DEPTH
CIRCULAR PIPE**

CHART 5



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS, JAN 1963

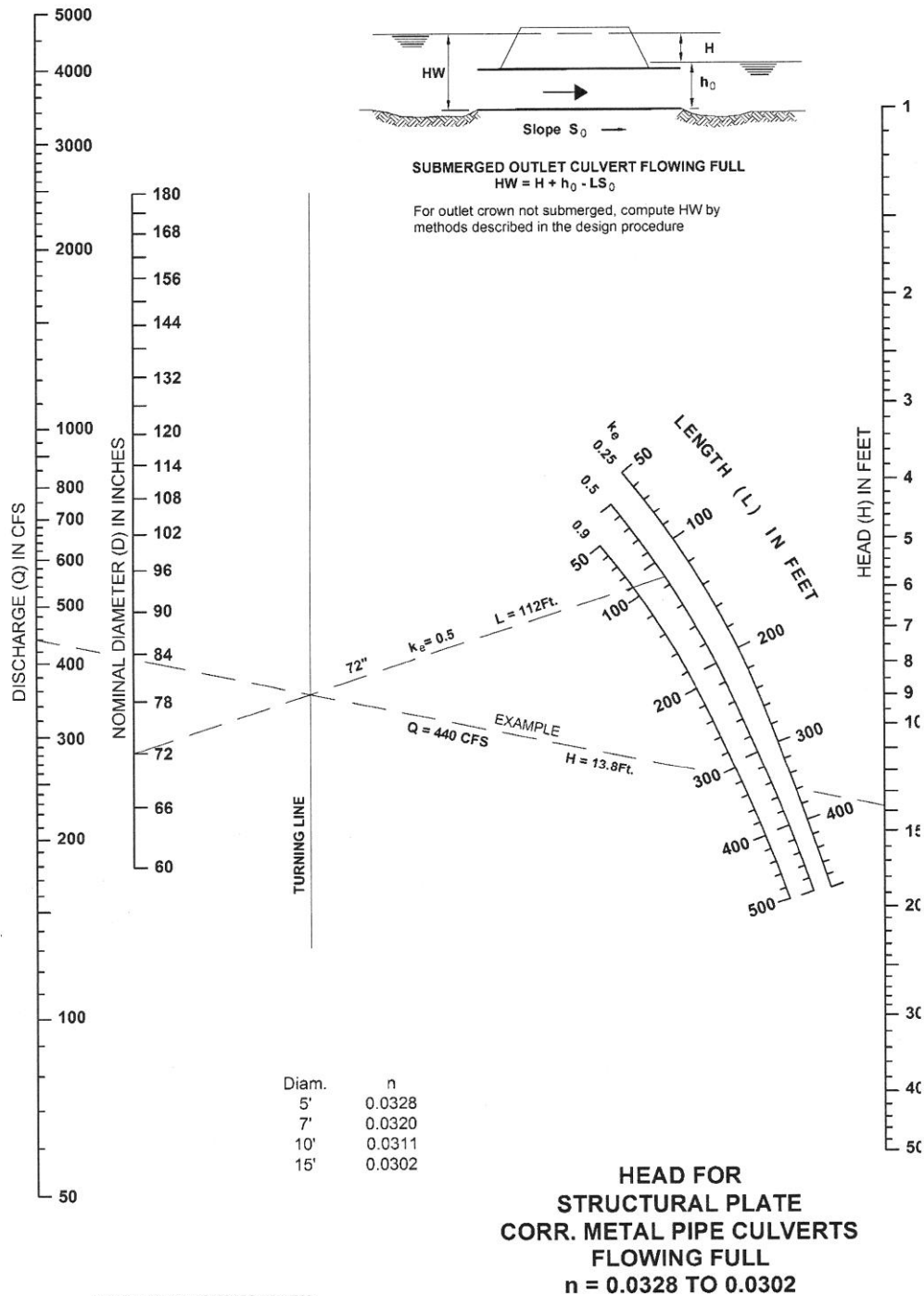
CHART 6



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1963

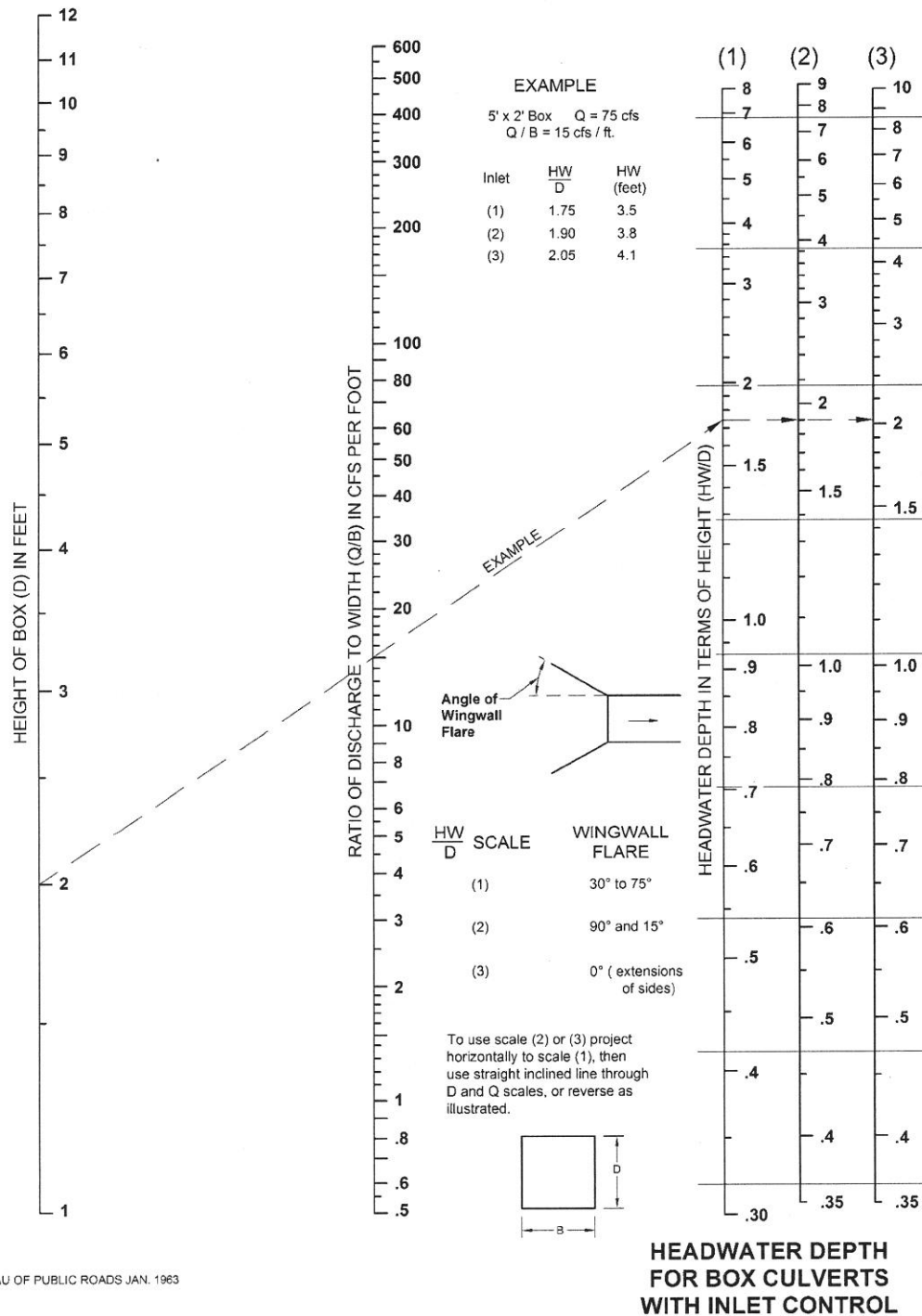
**HEAD FOR
STANDARD
C. M. PIPE CULVERTS
FLOWING FULL
 $n=0.024$**

CHART 7



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS, JAN. 1963

CHART 8



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1963

CHART 9

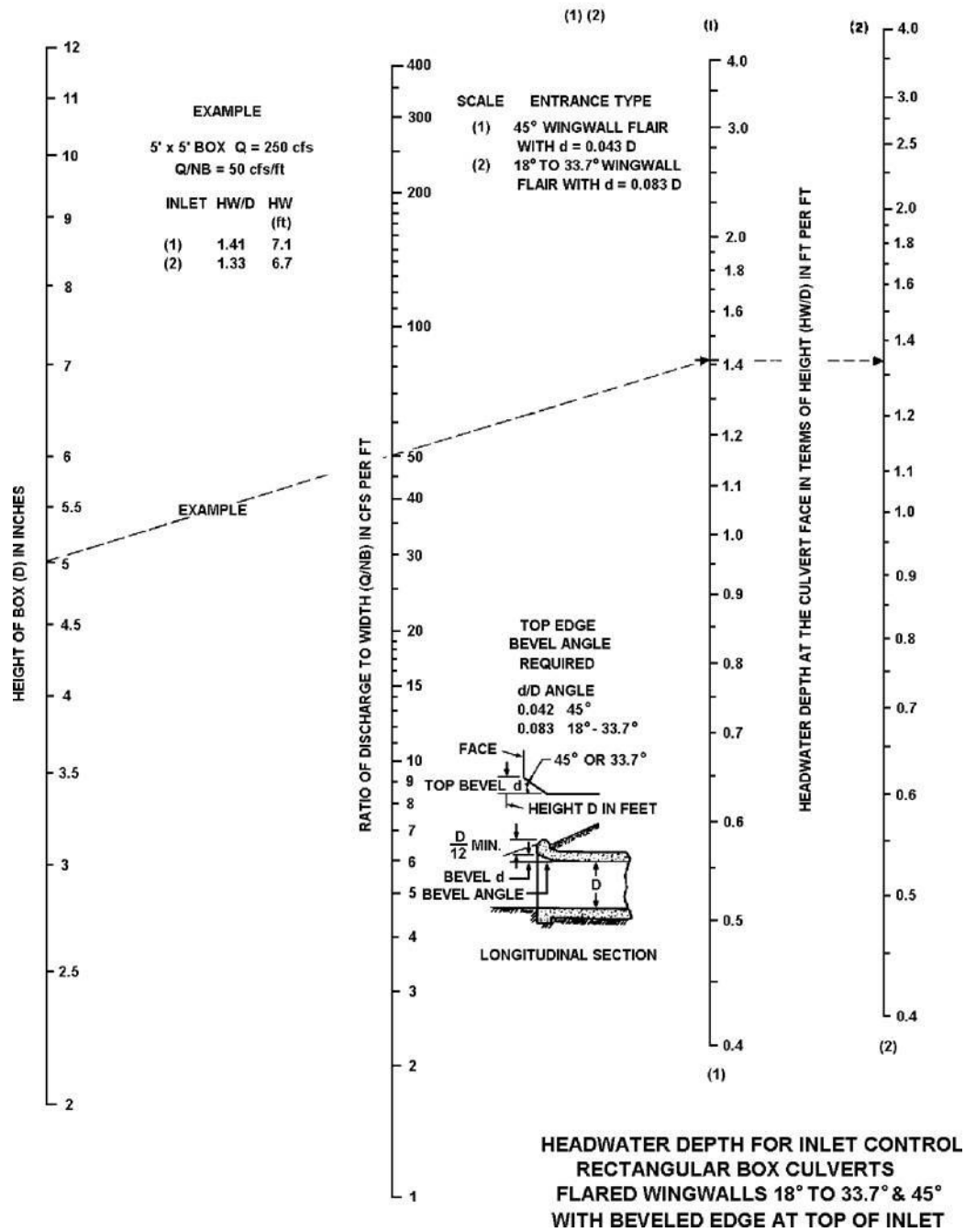
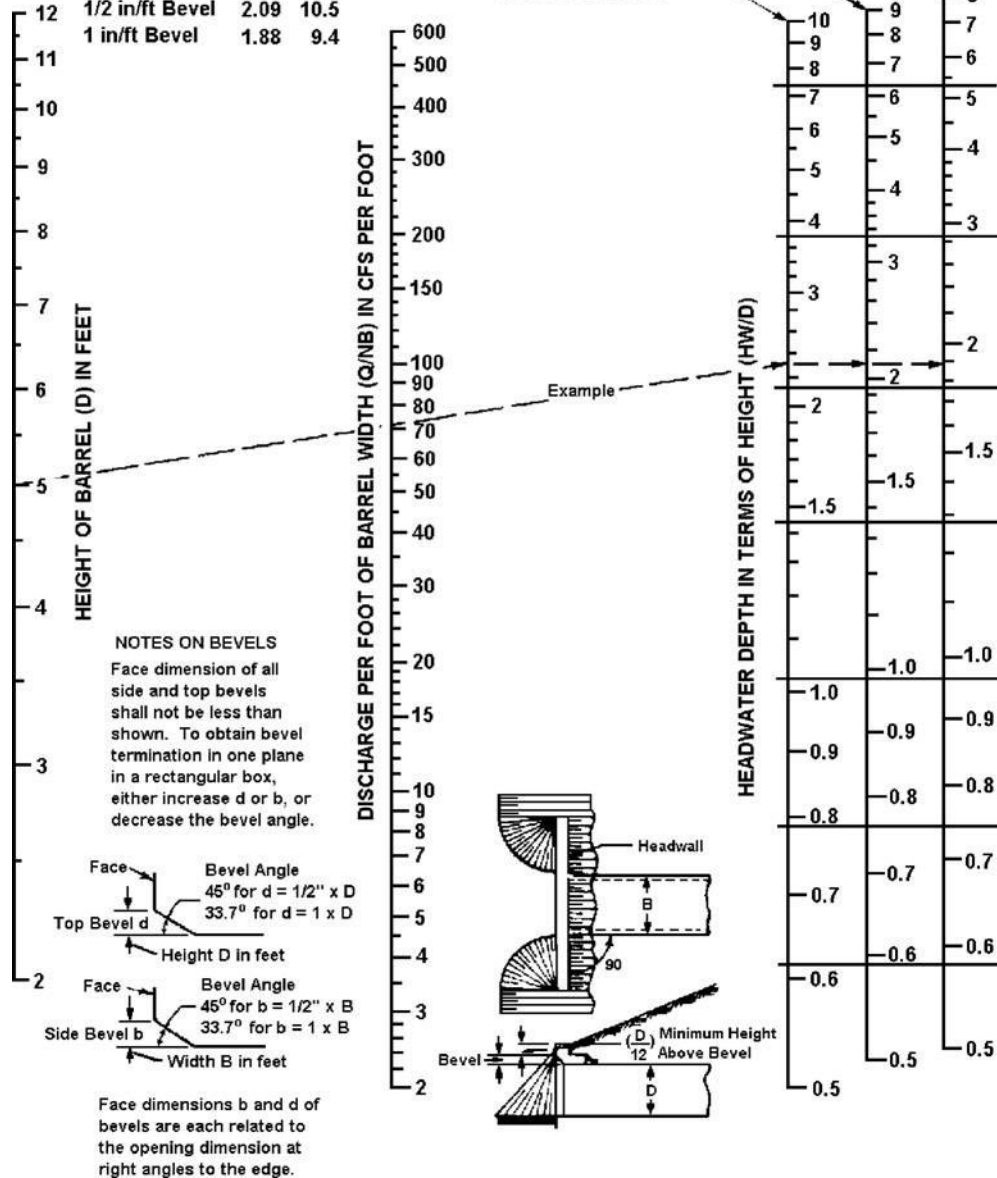


CHART 10

EXAMPLE
 $B = 7 \text{ ft}$ $D = 5 \text{ ft}$ $Q = 500 \text{ cfs}$ $Q/NB = 71.5$

ALL EDGES	$\frac{HW}{D}$	HW (ft)
Chamfer 3/4"	2.31	11.5
1/2 in/ft Bevel	2.09	10.5
1 in/ft Bevel	1.88	9.4



HEADWATER DEPTH FOR INLET CONTROL RECTANGULAR BOX CULVERTS 90° HEADWALL CHAMFERED OR BEVELED INLET EDGES

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION MAY 1973

CHART 11

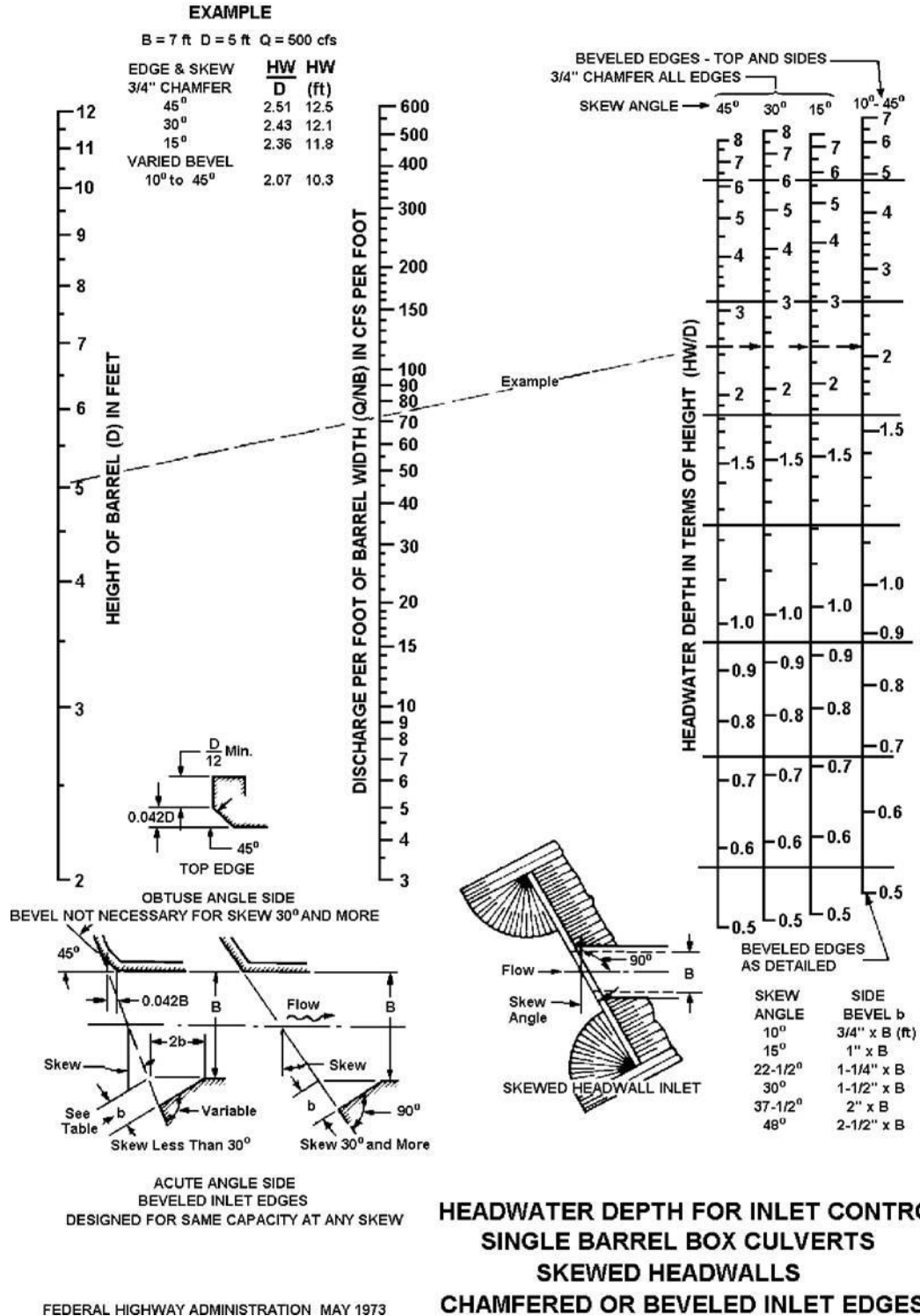


CHART 12

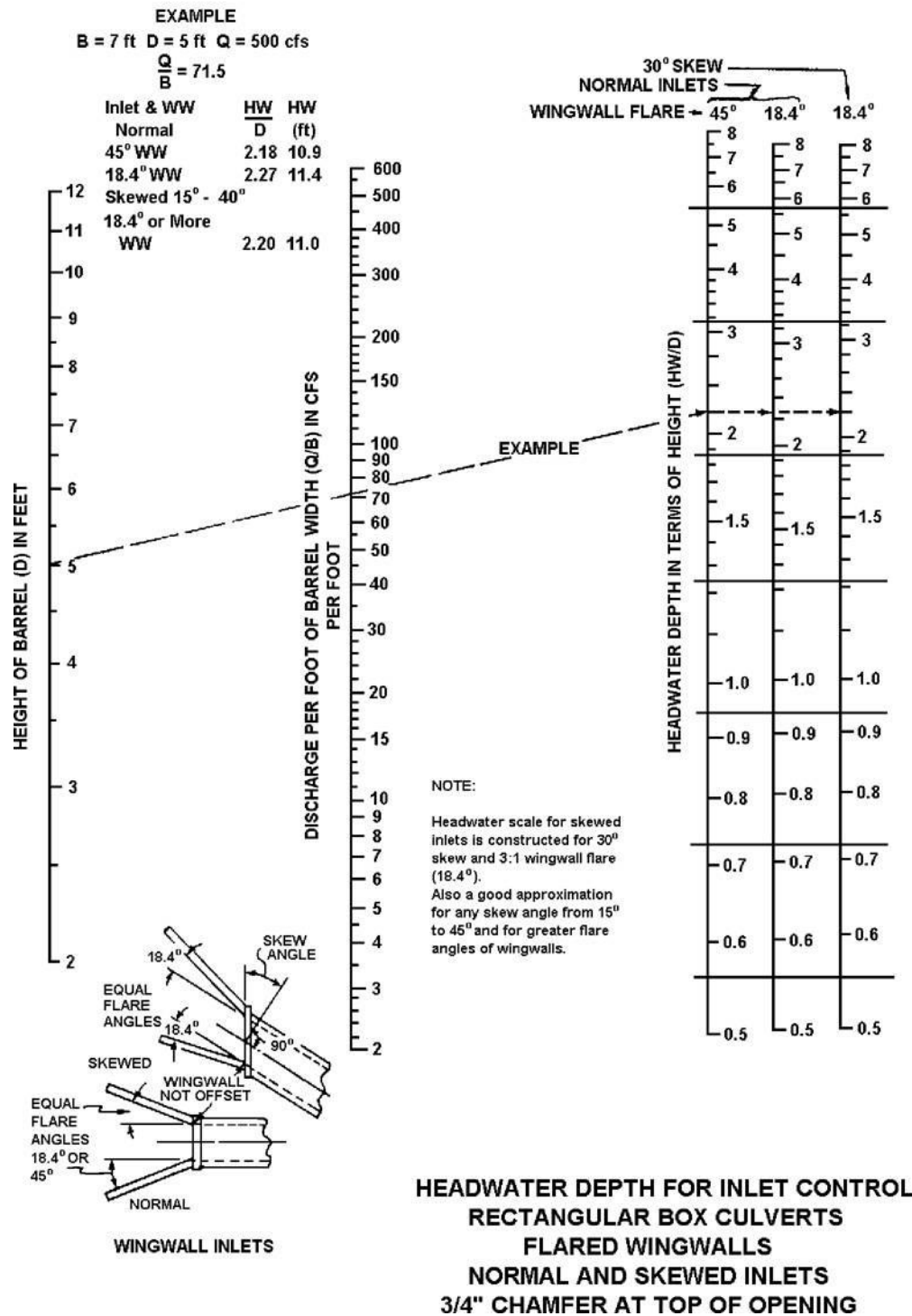
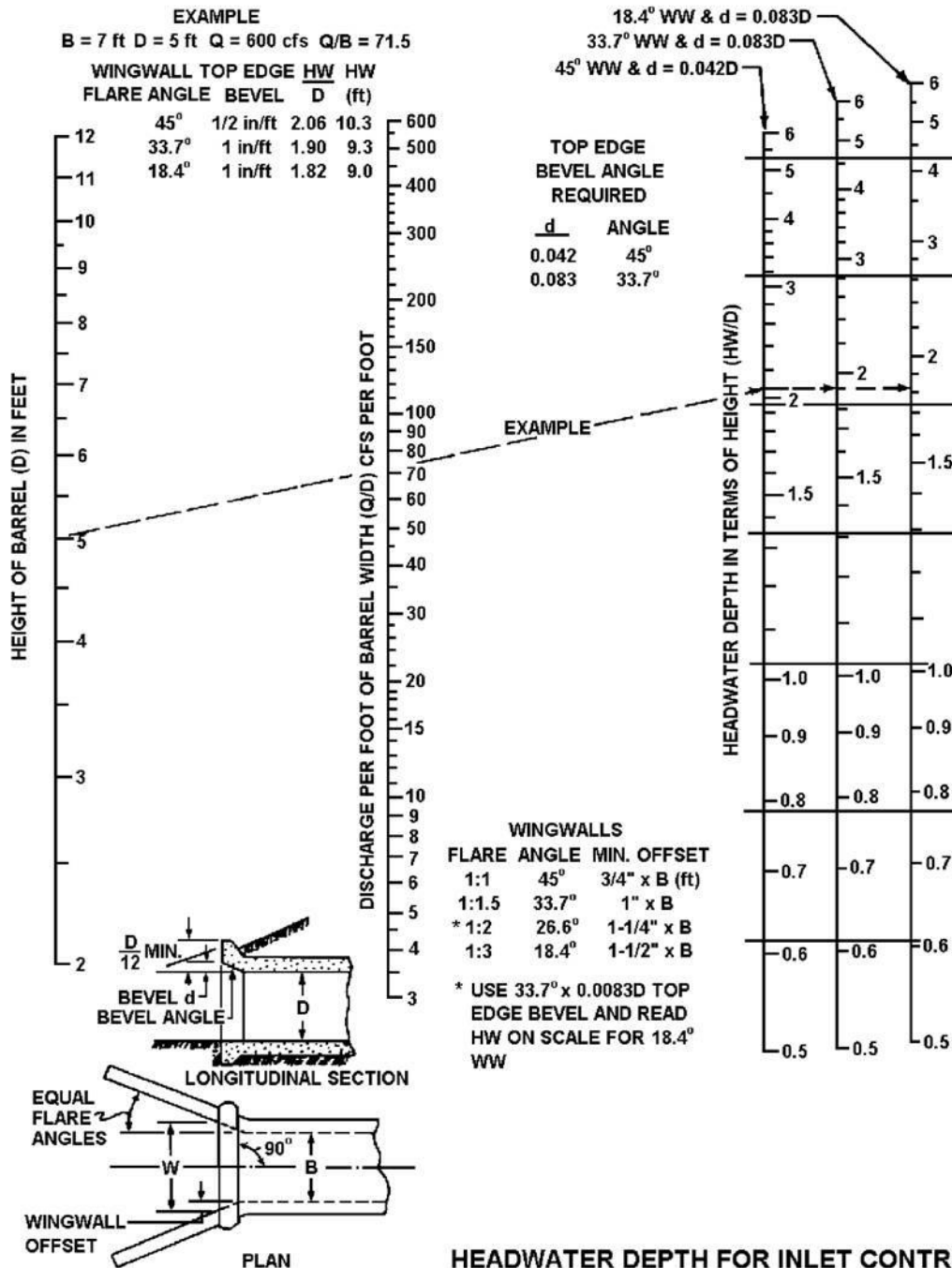
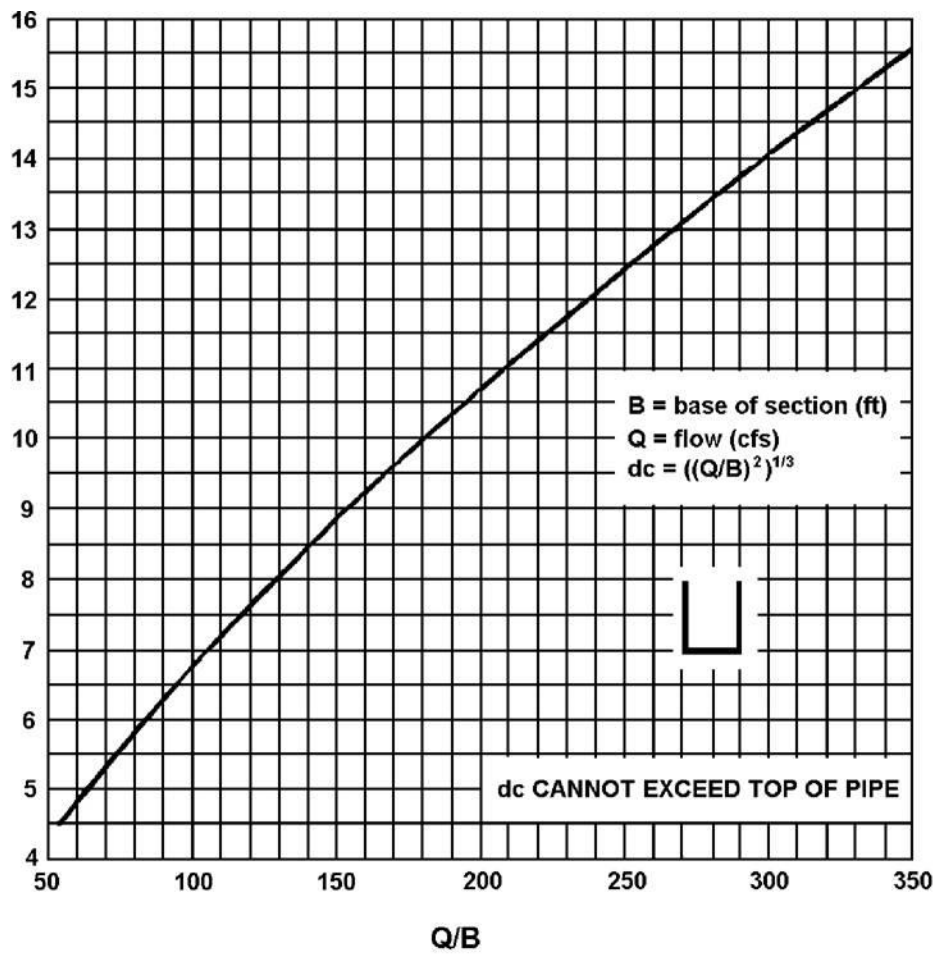
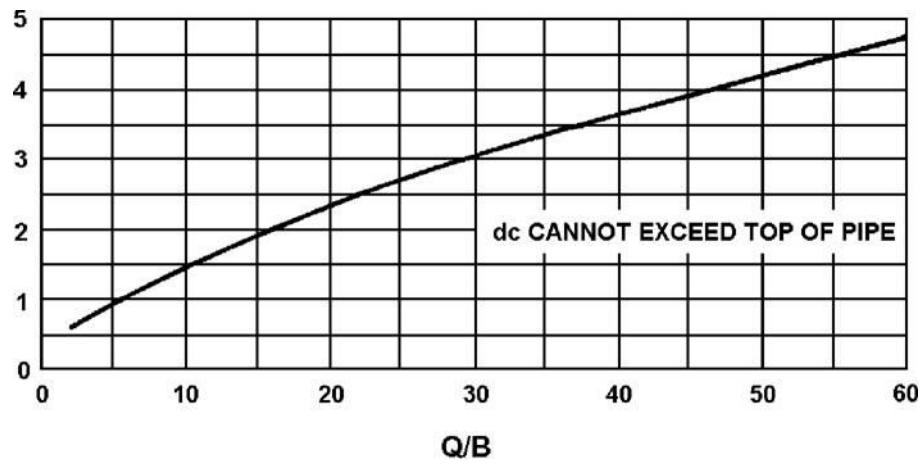


CHART 13



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS
 OFFICE OF R&D AUGUST 1968

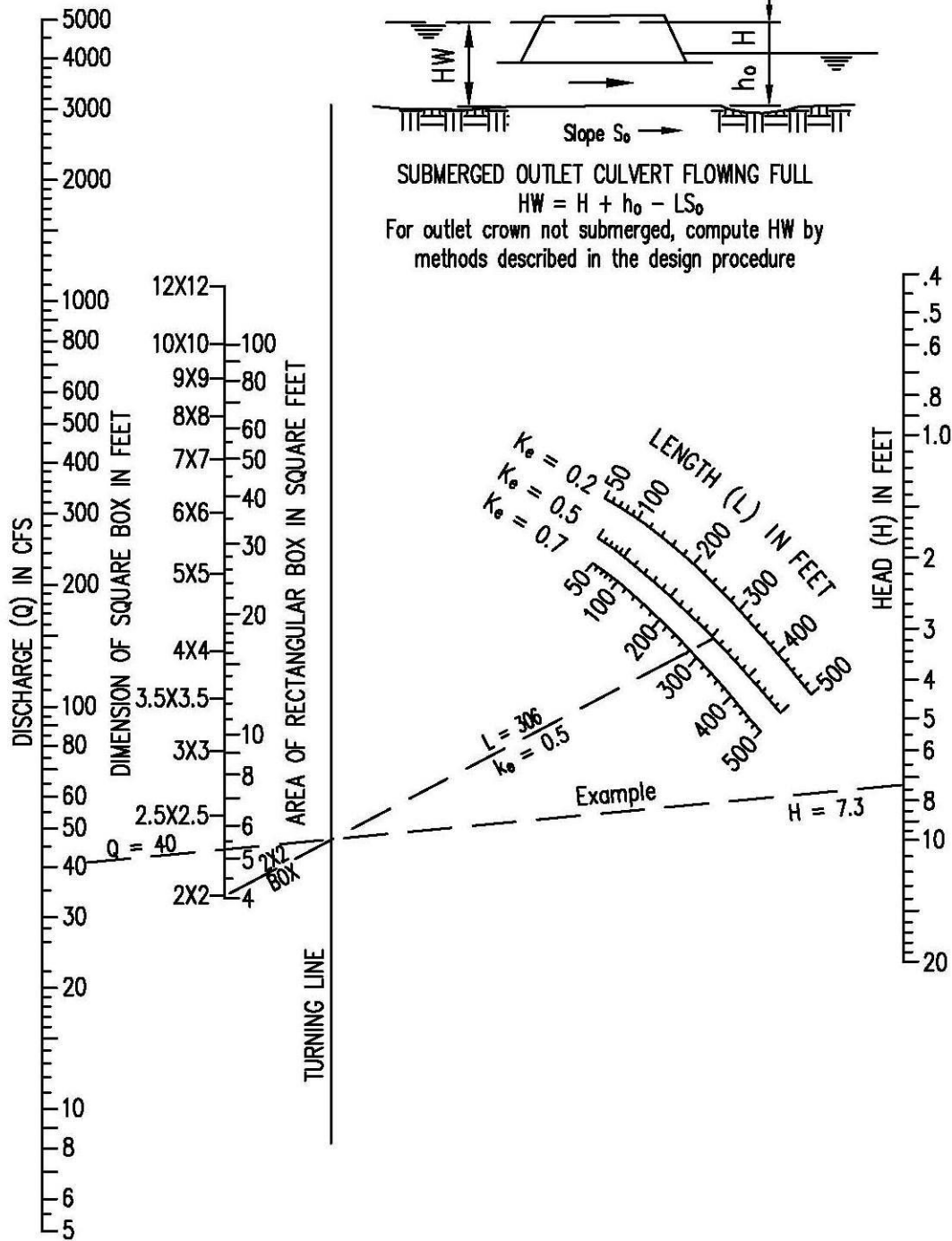
CHART 14



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1963

CRITICAL DEPTH RECTANGULAR SECTION

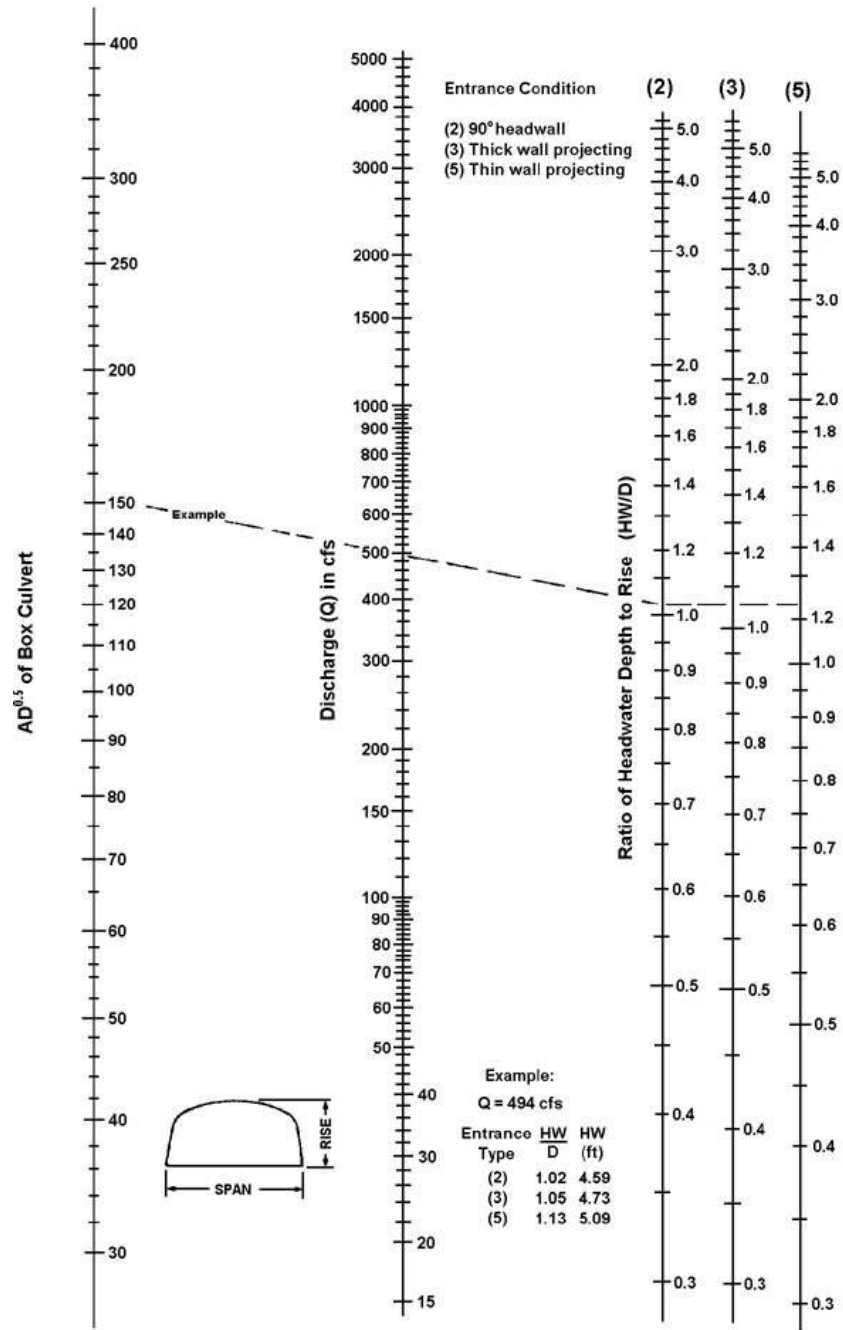
CHART 15



HEAD FOR
 CONCRETE BOX CULVERTS
 FLOWING FULL
 $n=0.012$

(Bureau of Public Roads Jan. 1963)

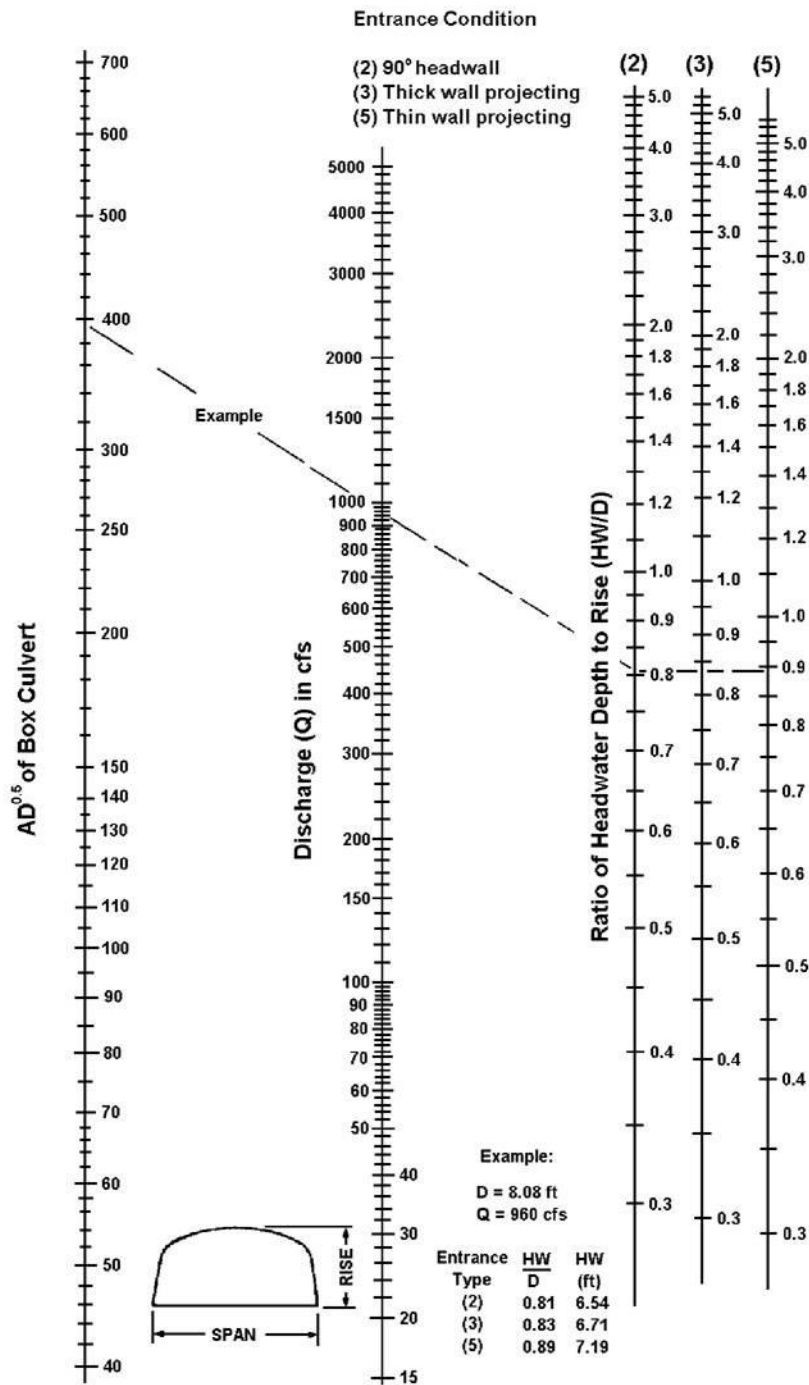
CHART 16



Nomographs adapted from material furnished by Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation.

**HEADWATER DEPTH
FOR C.M. BOX CULVERTS
RISE/SPAN < 0.3
WITH INLET CONTROL**

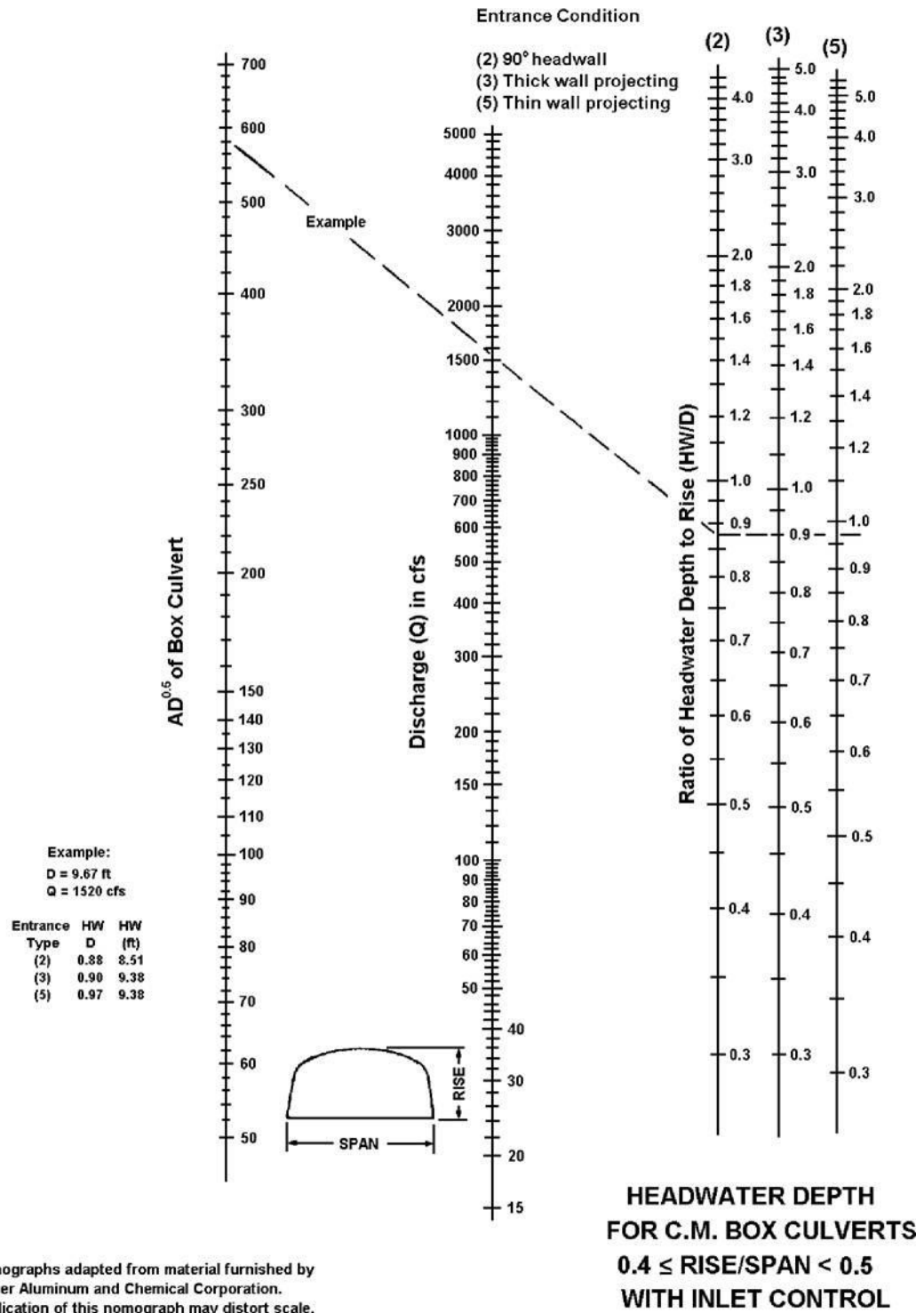
CHART 17



Nomographs adapted from material furnished by
Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation.
Duplication of this nomograph may distort scale.

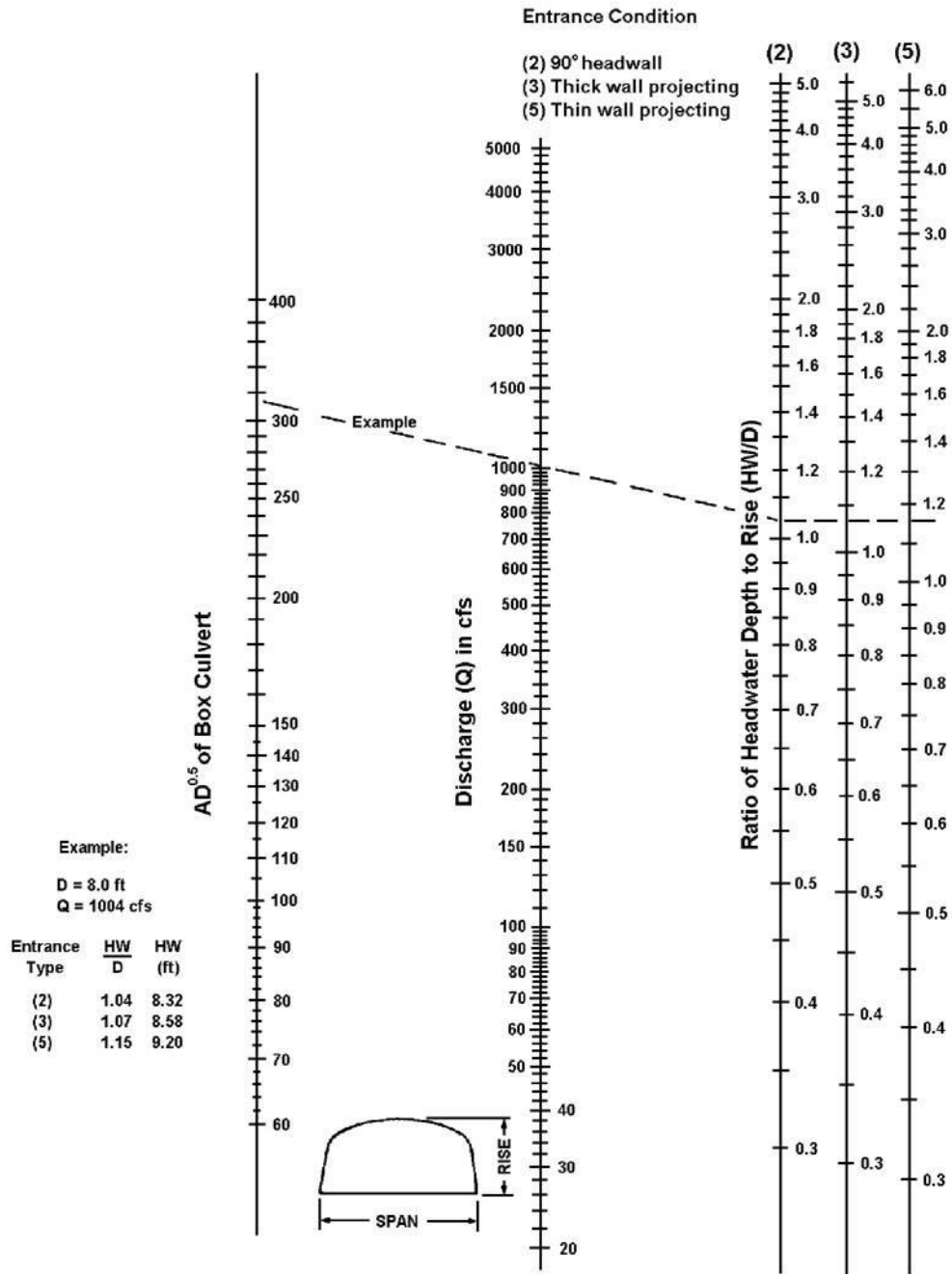
**HEADWATER DEPTH
FOR C.M. BOX CULVERTS
0.3 ≤ RISE/SPAN < 0.4
WITH INLET CONTROL**

CHART 18



Nomographs adapted from material furnished by
Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation.
Duplication of this nomograph may distort scale.

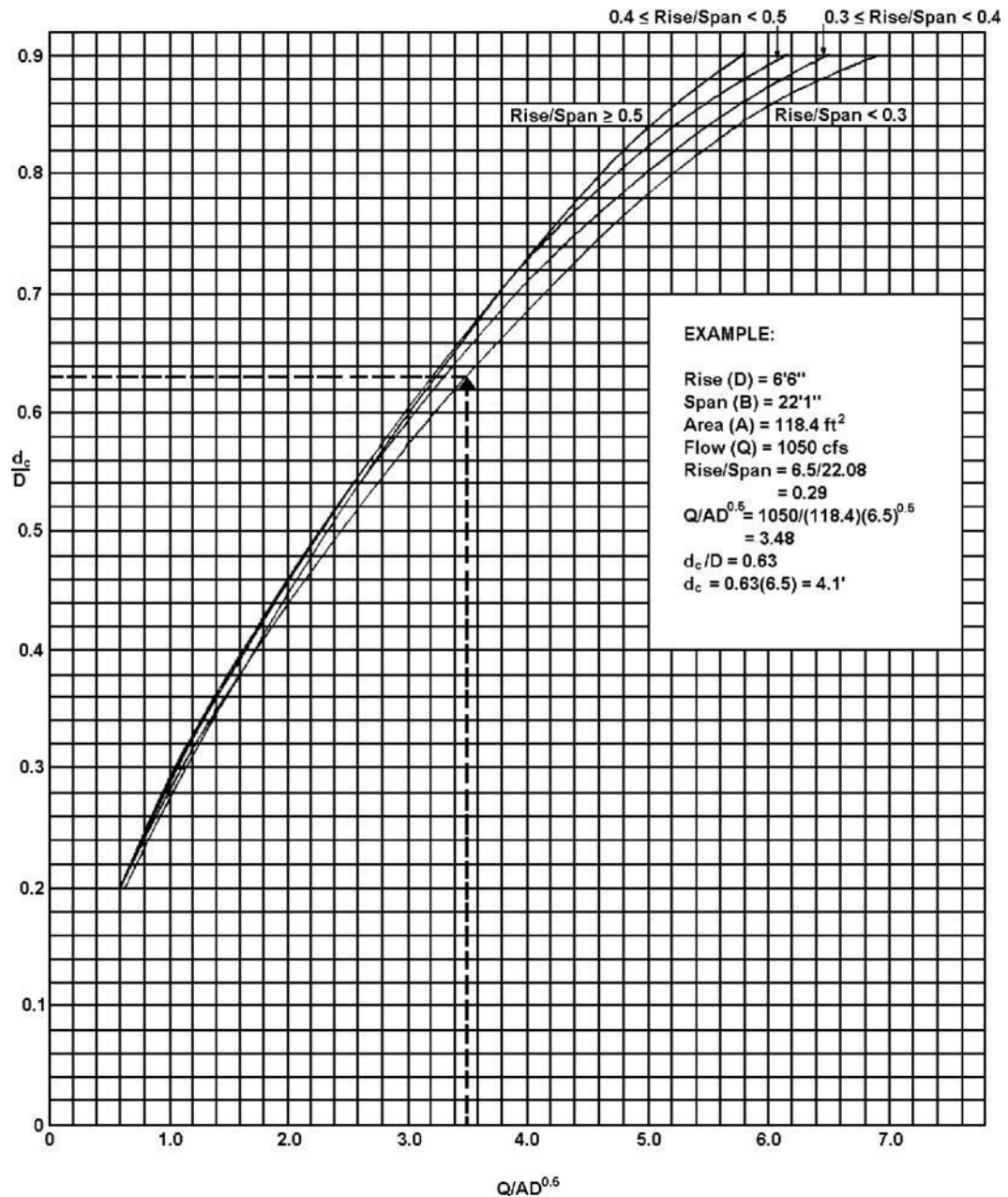
CHART 19



Nomographs adapted from material furnished by
Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation.

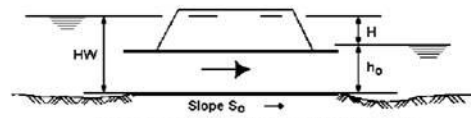
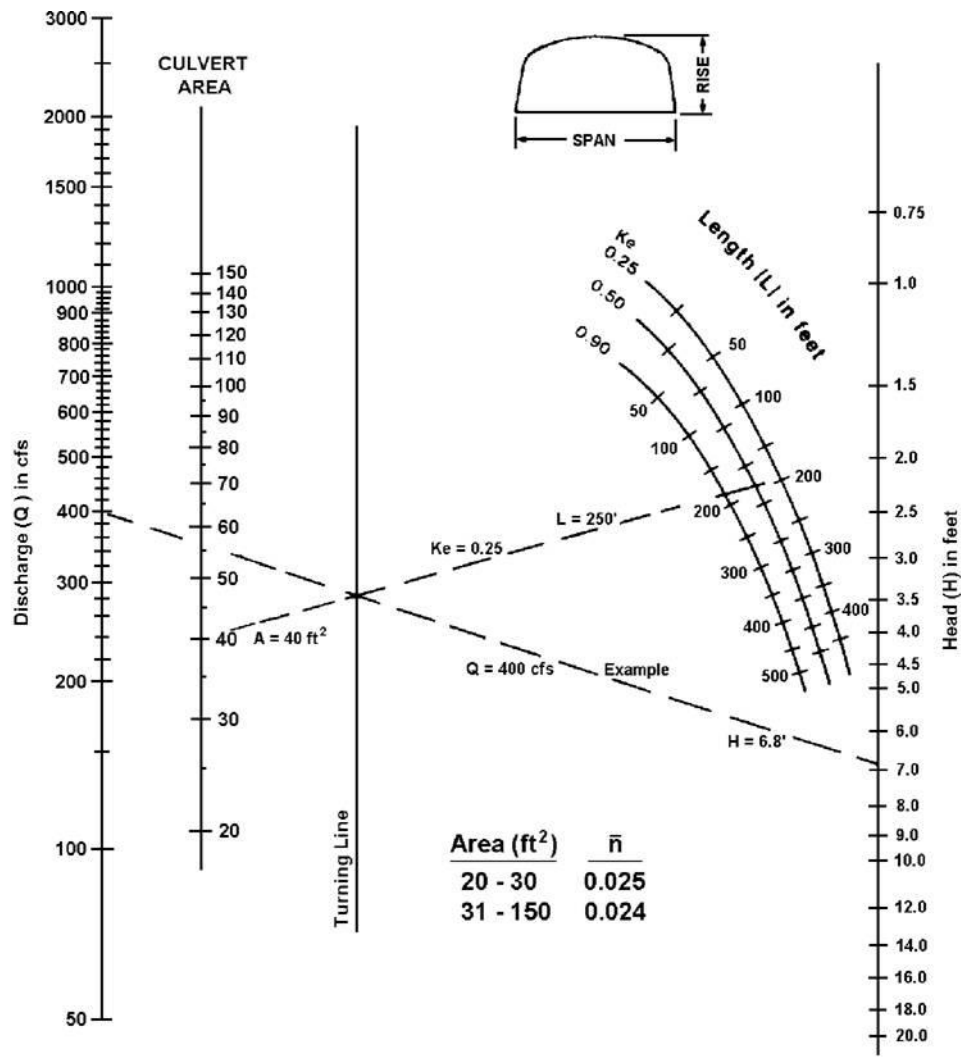
**HEADWATER DEPTH
FOR C.M. BOX CULVERTS
 $0.5 \leq \text{RISE/SPAN}$
WITH INLET CONTROL**

CHART 20



**DIMENSIONLESS CRITICAL DEPTH
FOR C.M. BOX CULVERTS**

CHART 21



SUBMERGED OUTLET CULVERT FLOWING FULL

For outlet crown not submerged, compute HW by methods described in the design procedure.

**HEAD FOR
C.M. BOX CULVERTS
FLOWING FULL
CONCRETE BOTTOM
RISE/SPAN < 0.3**

Nomographs adapted from material furnished by Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation. Duplication of this nomograph may distort scale.

CHART 22

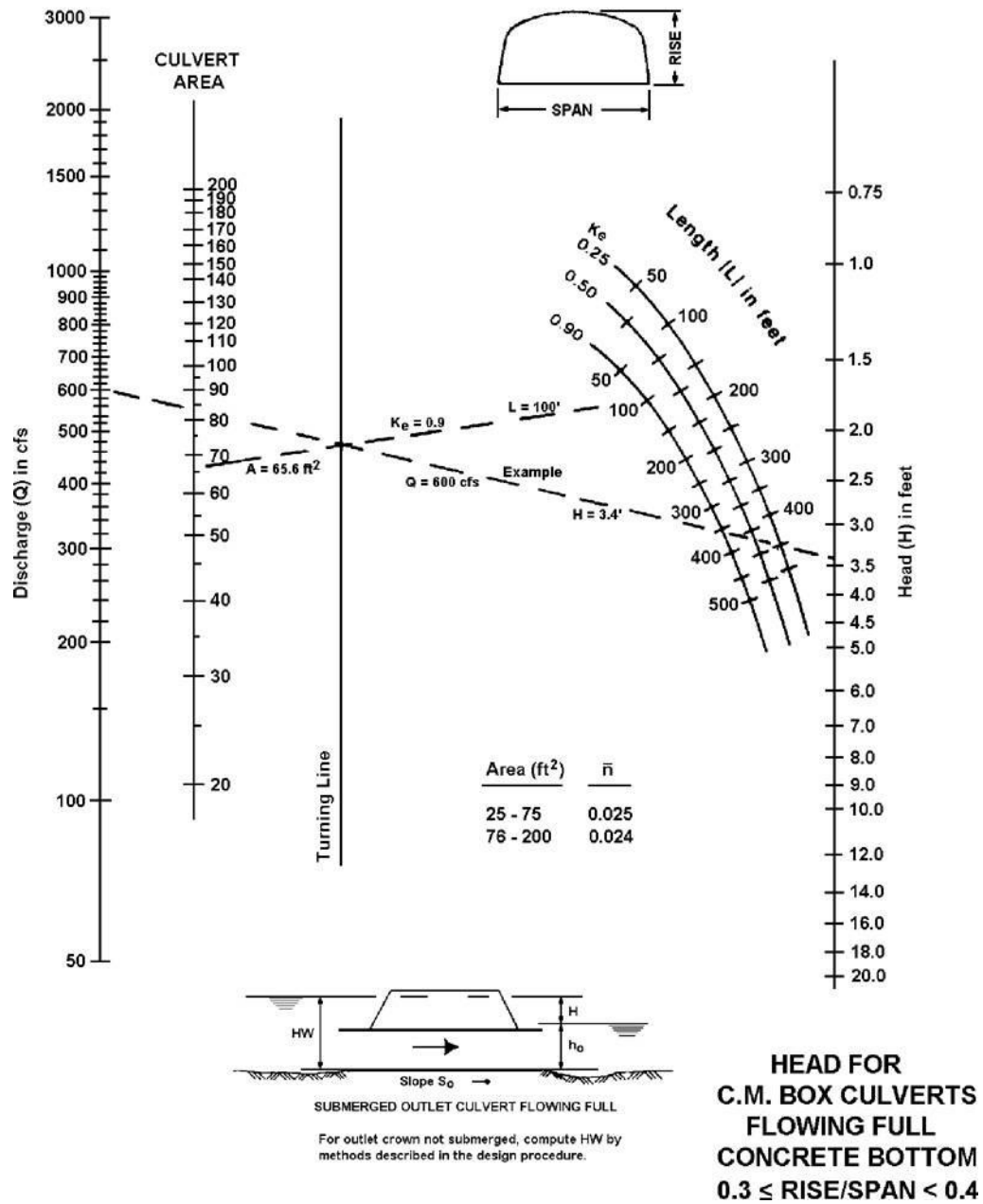
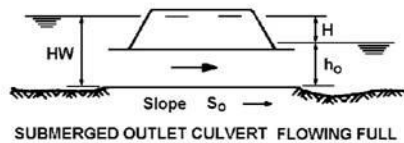
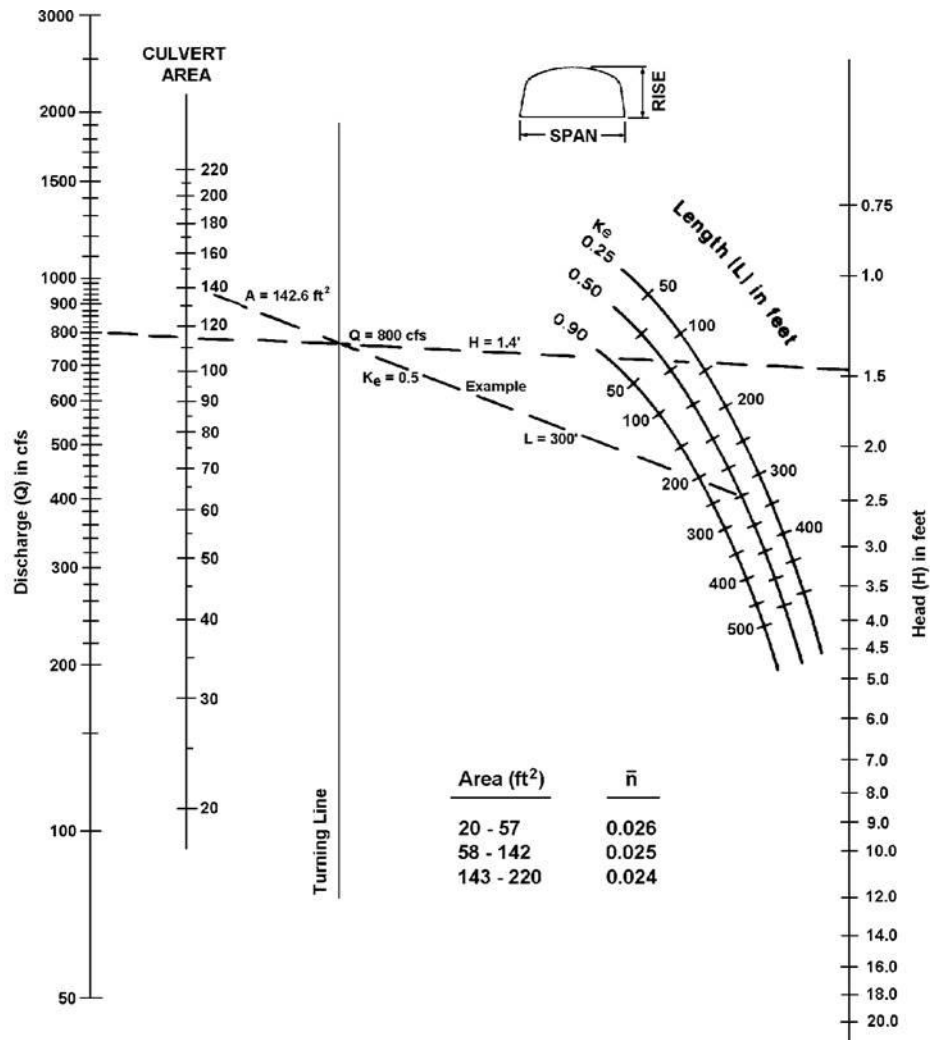


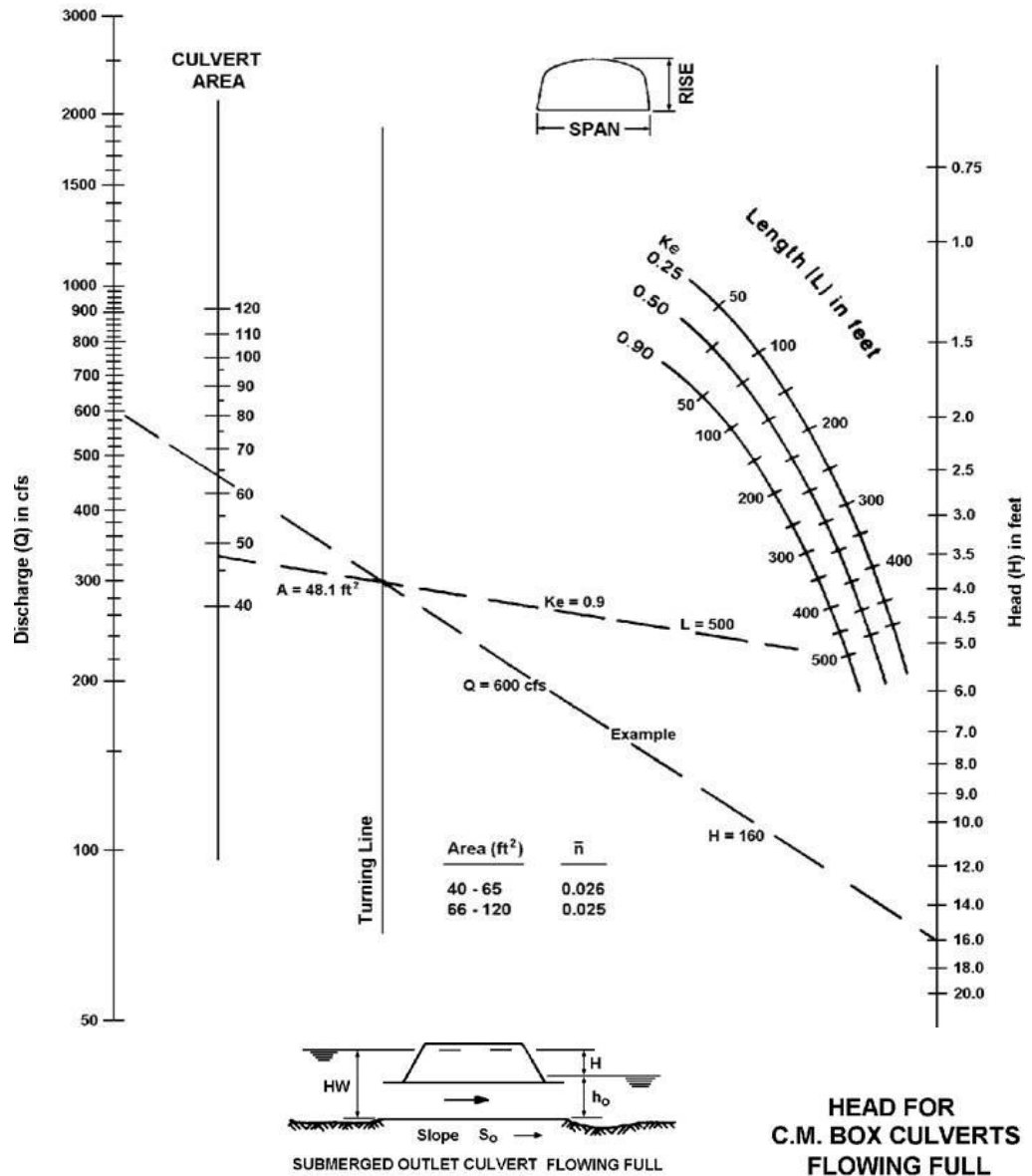
CHART 23



Nomographs adapted from material furnished by Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation. Duplication of this nomograph may distort scale.

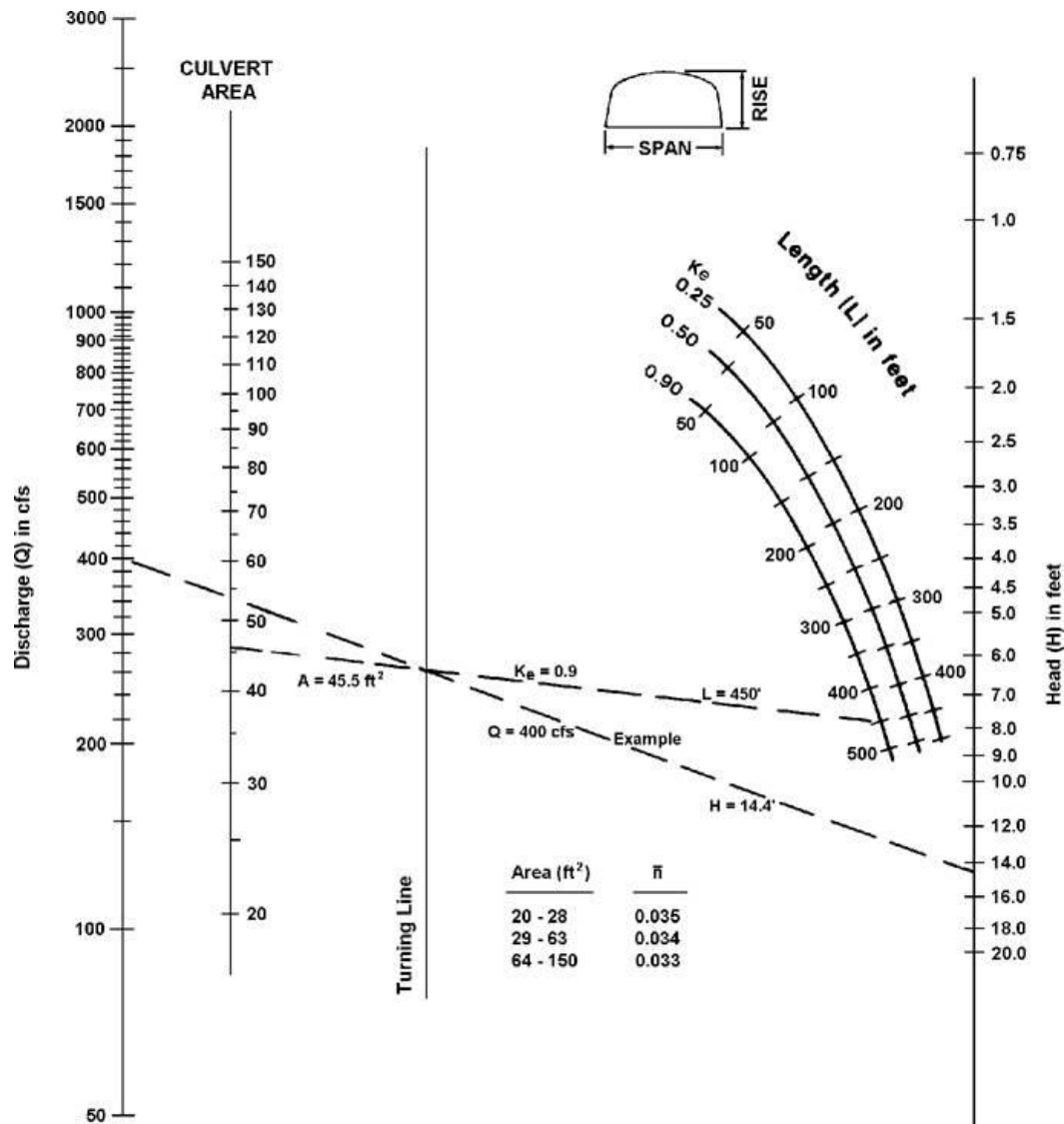
**HEAD FOR
C.M. BOX CULVERTS
FLOWING FULL
CONCRETE BOTTOM
 $0.4 \leq \text{RISE}/\text{SPAN} < 0.5$**

CHART 24



Nomographs adapted from material furnished by Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation. Duplication of this nomograph may distort scale.

CHART 25



Nomographs adapted from material furnished by Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation. Duplication of this nomograph may distort scale.

**HEAD FOR
C.M. BOX CULVERTS
FLOWING FULL
CORRUGATED METAL BOTTOM
0.3 < RISE/SPAN**

CHART 26

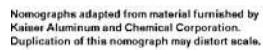


CHART 27

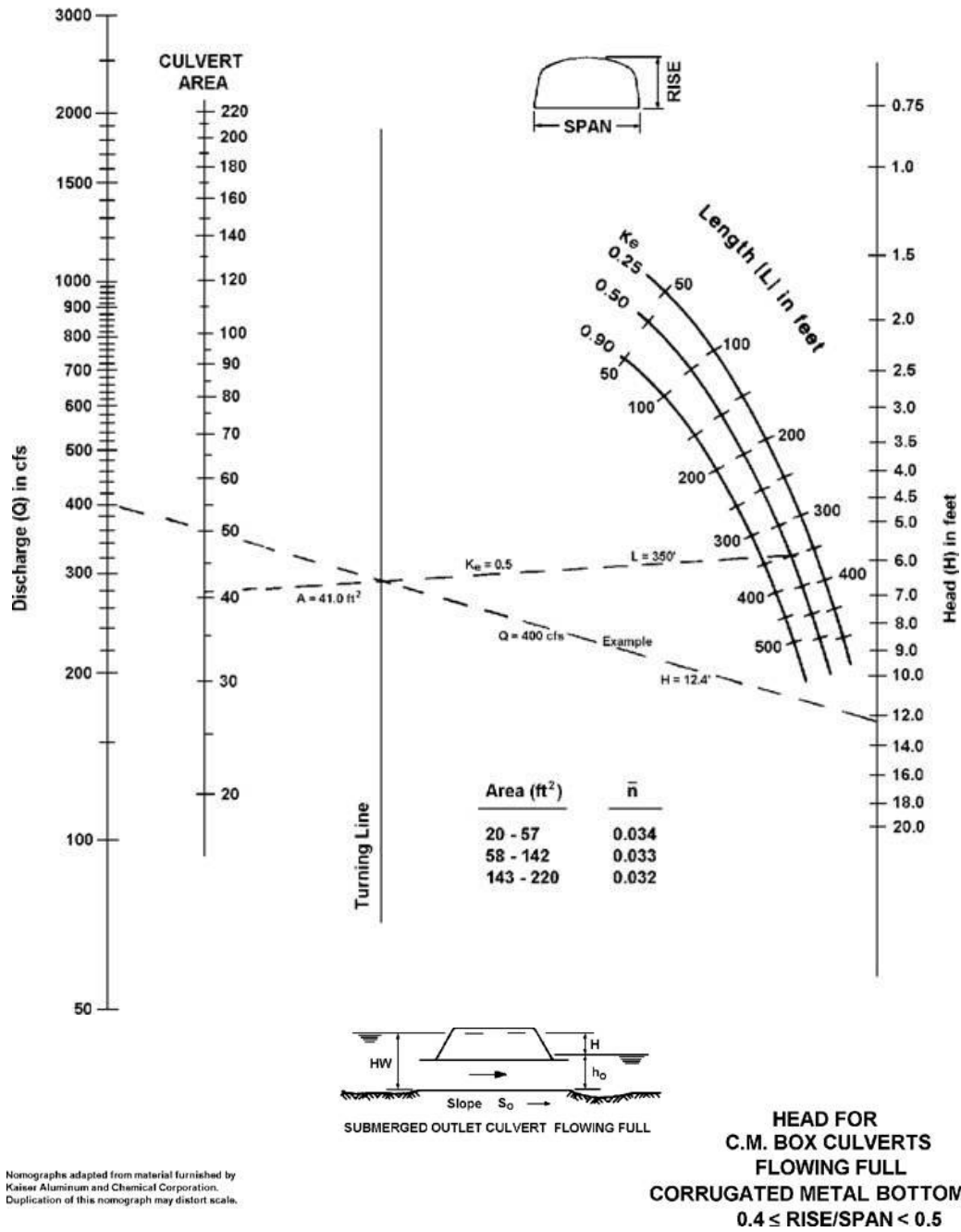
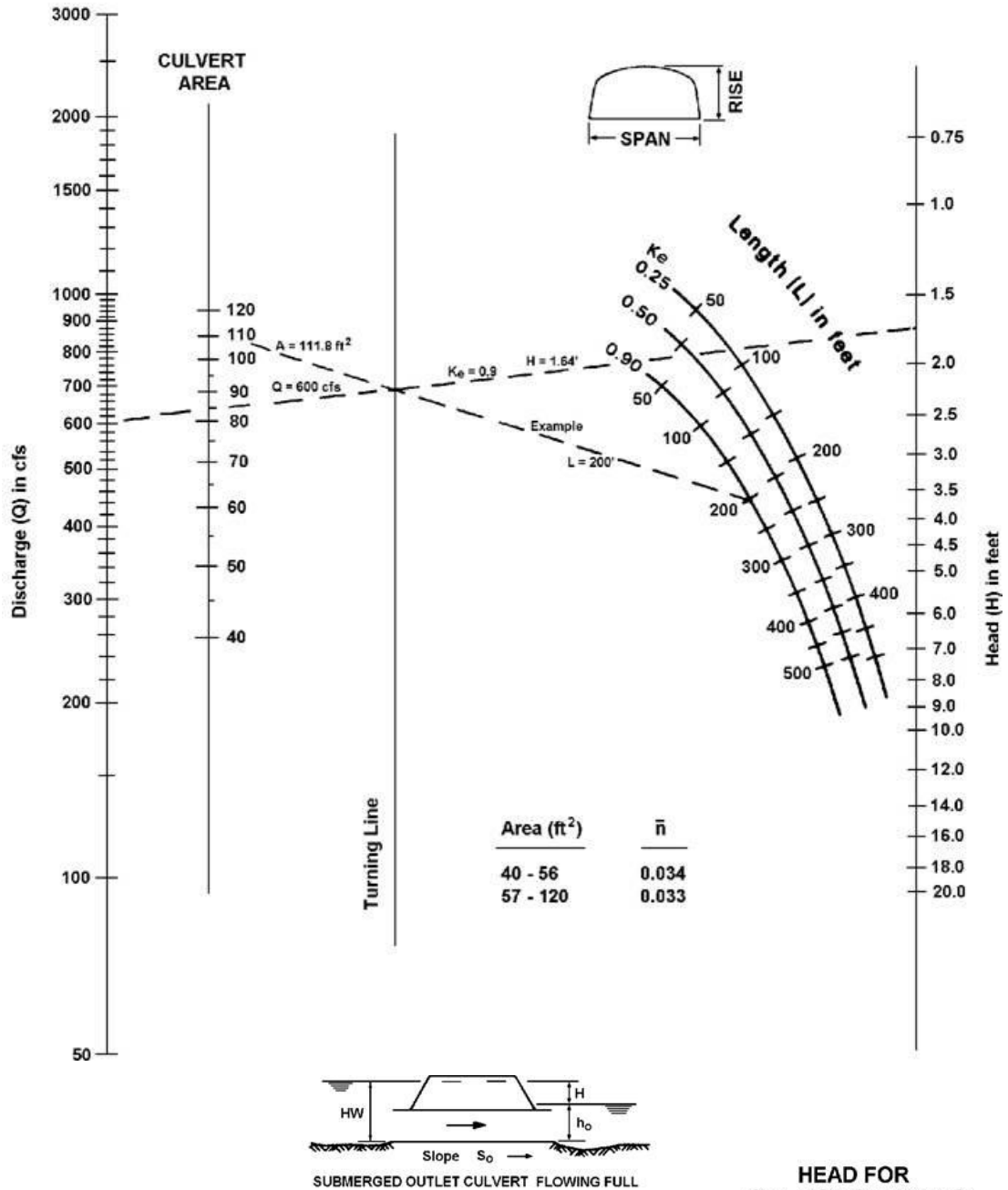


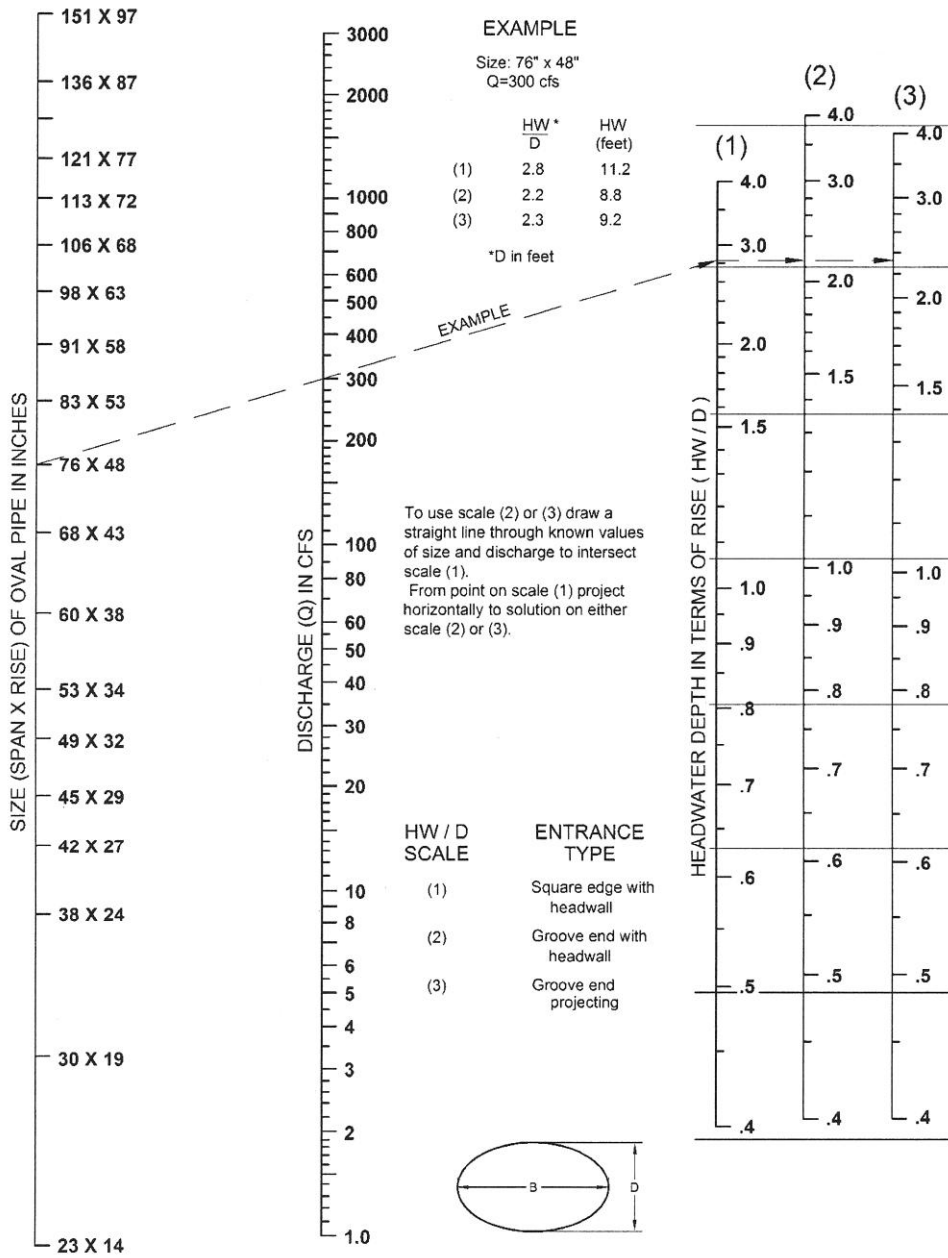
CHART 28



Nomographs adapted from material furnished by Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation. Duplication of this nomograph may distort scale.

**HEAD FOR
C.M. BOX CULVERTS
FLOWING FULL
CORRUGATED METAL BOTTOM
 $0.5 \leq \text{RISE/SPAN}$**

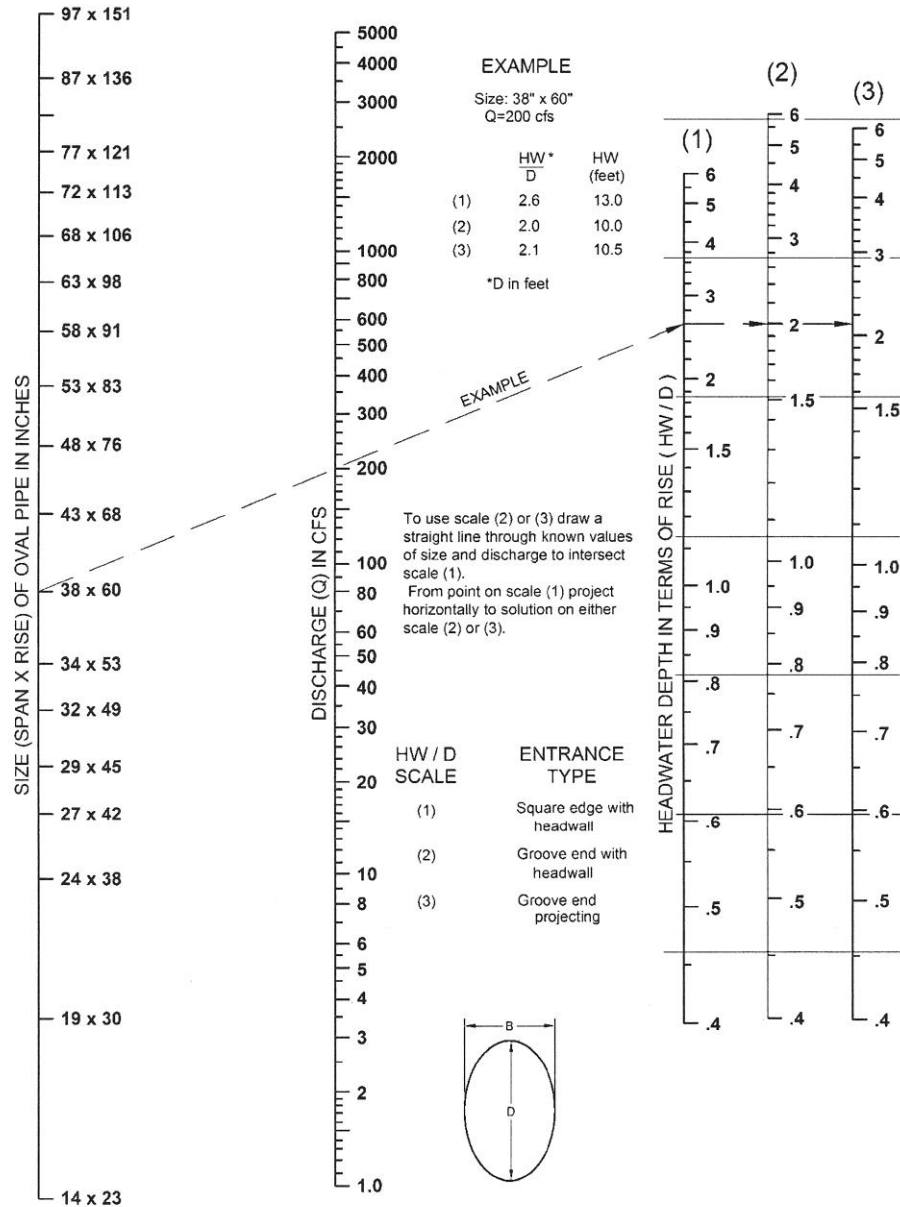
CHART 29



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1963

**HEADWATER DEPTH FOR
OVAL CONCRETE PIPE CULVERTS
LONG AXIS HORIZONTAL
WITH INLET CONTROL**

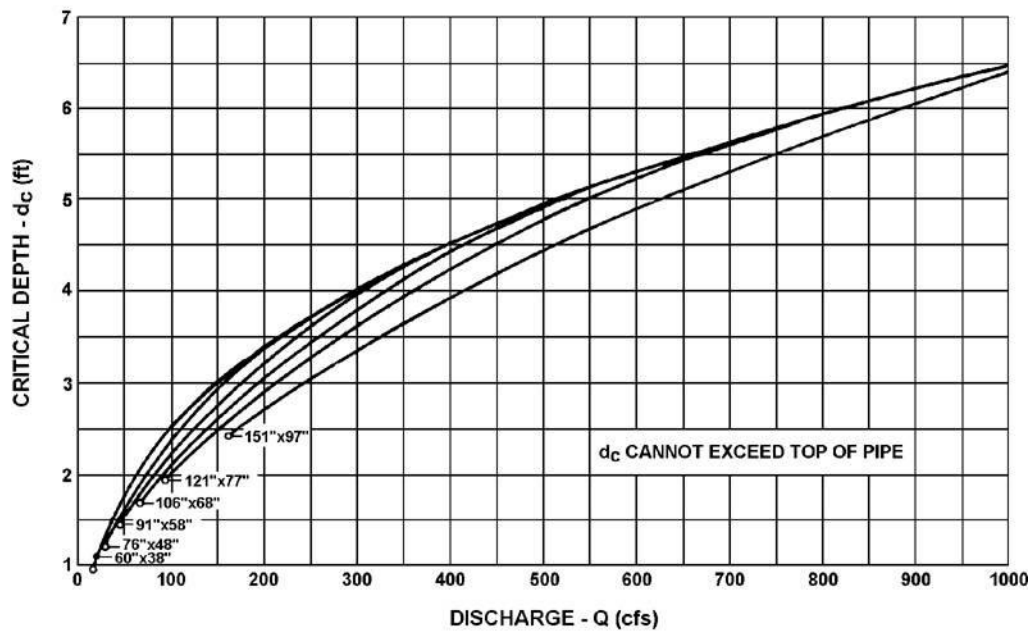
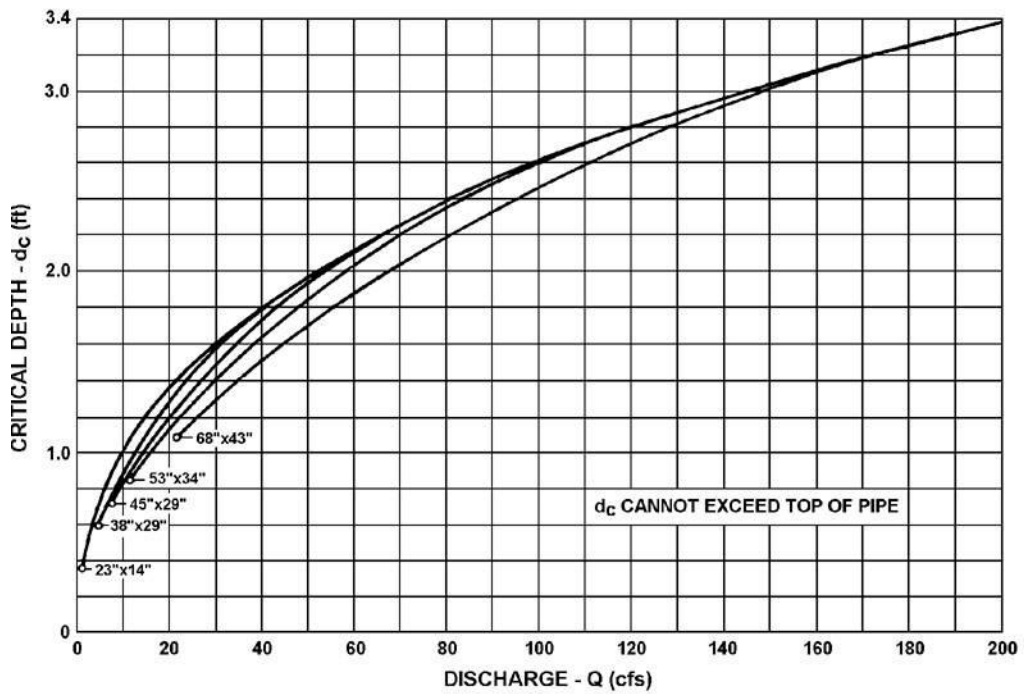
CHART 30



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1963

HEADWATER DEPTH FOR OVAL CONCRETE PIPE CULVERTS LONG AXIS VERTICAL WITH INLET CONTROL

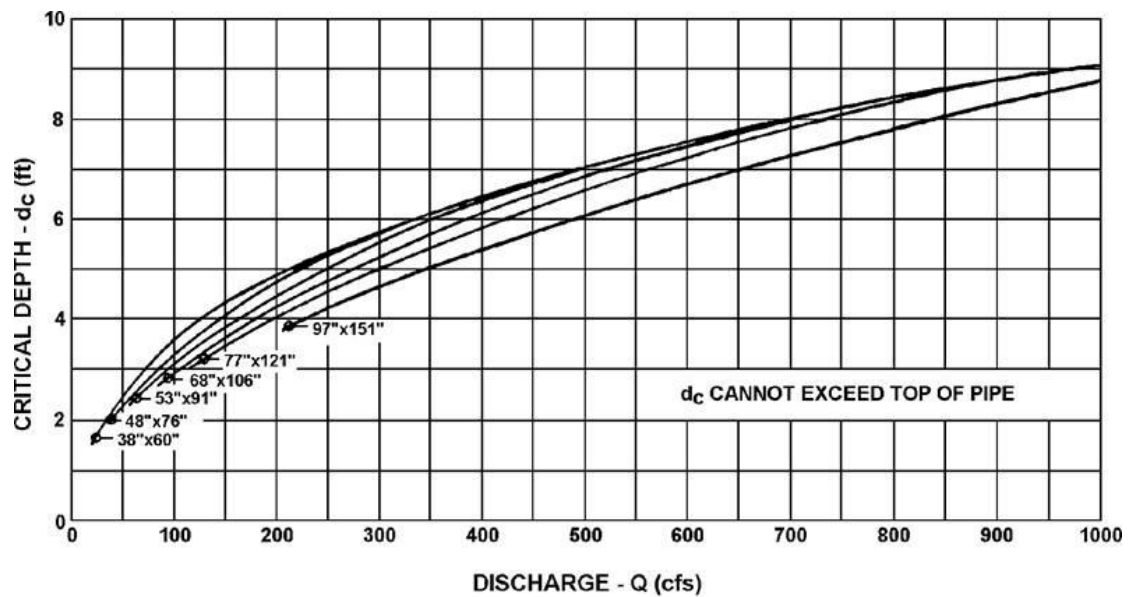
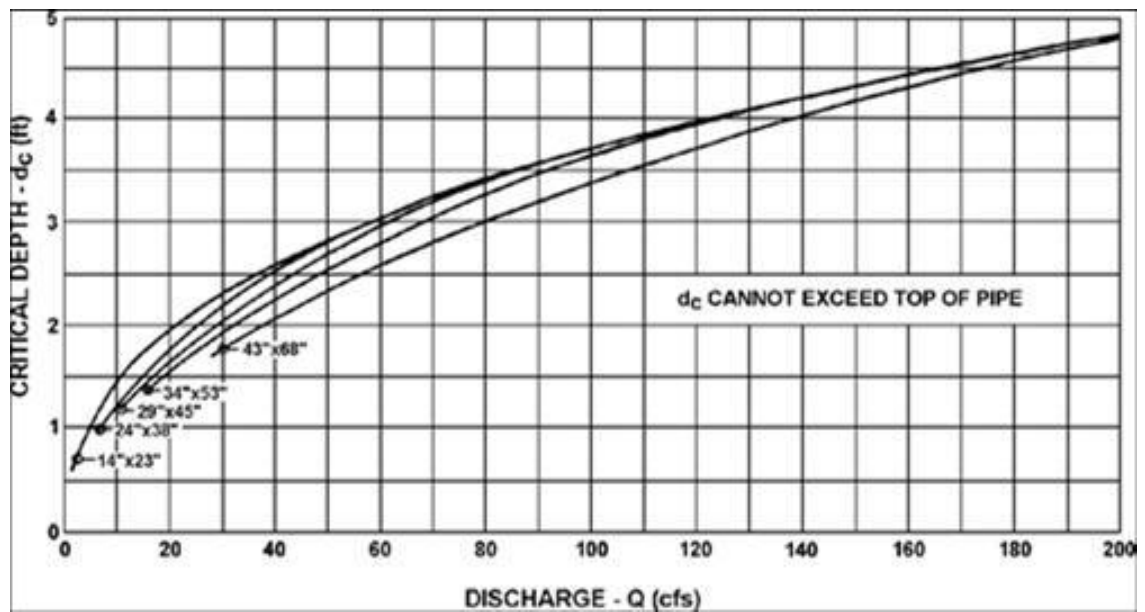
CHART 31



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1964

CRITICAL DEPTH
OVAL CONCRETE PIPE
LONG AXIS HORIZONTAL

CHART 32



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS JAN. 1964

CRITICAL DEPTH
OVAL CONCRETE PIPE
LONG AXIS VERTICAL

CHART 33

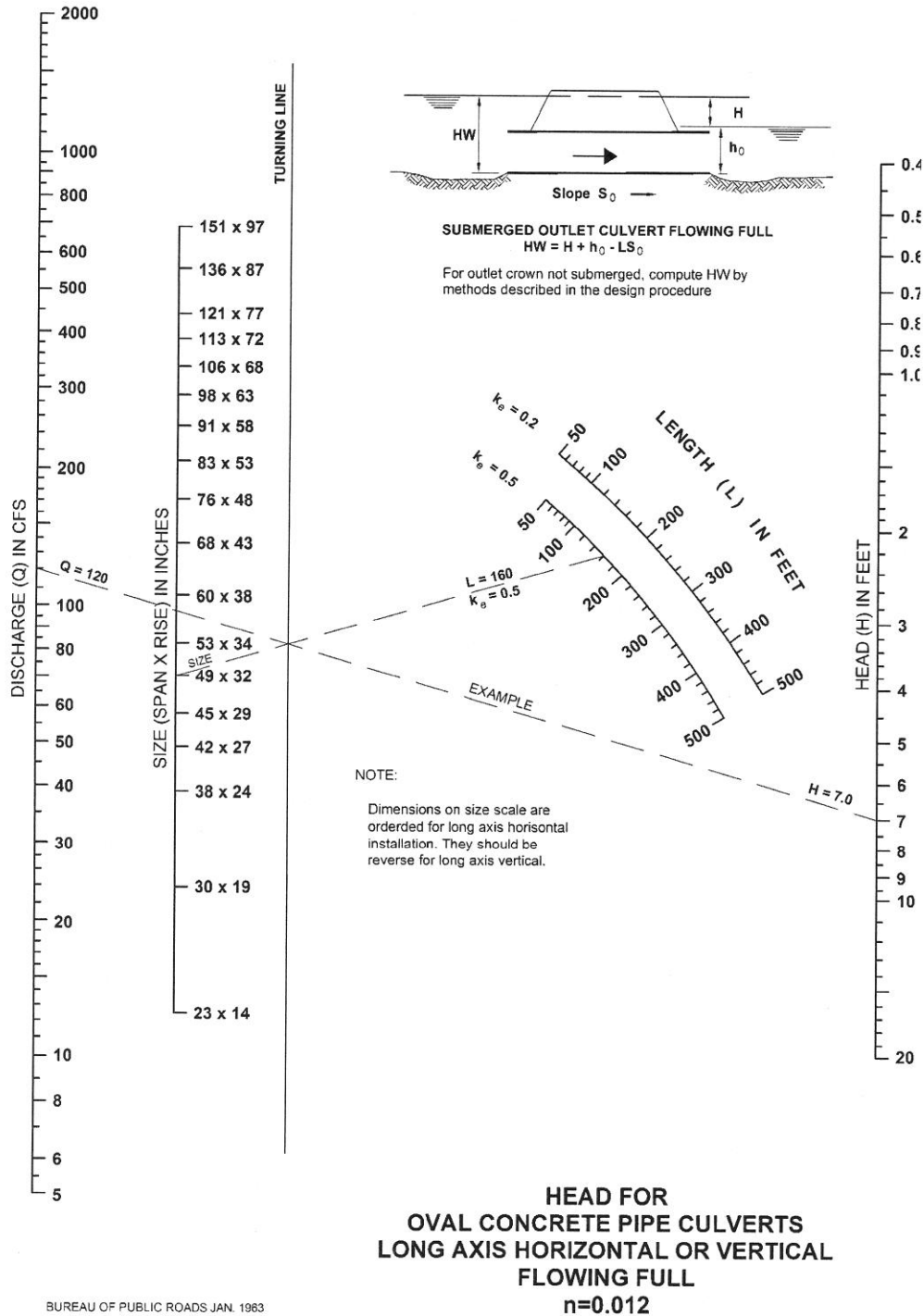
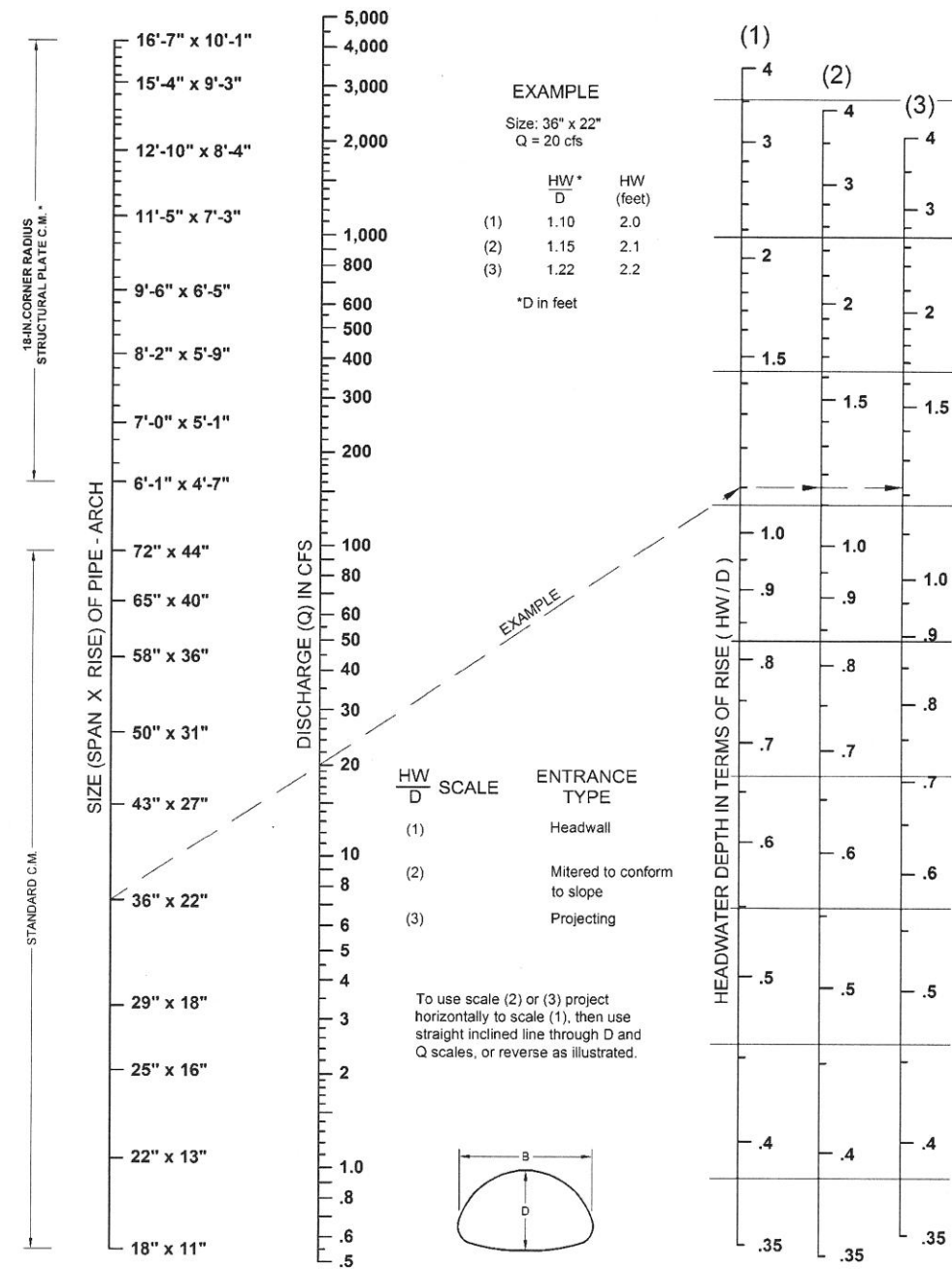


CHART 34



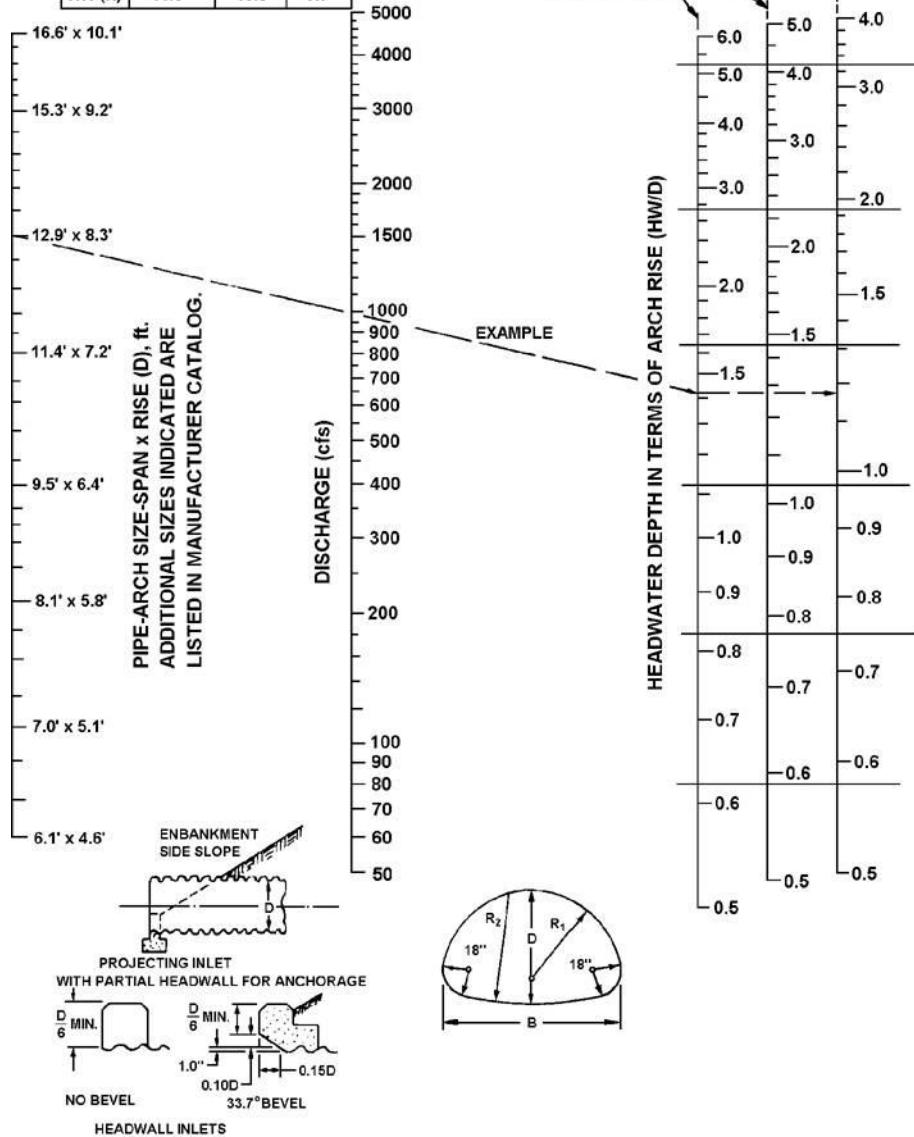
* ADDITIONAL SIZES NOT DIMENSIONED ARE LISTED IN FABRICATOR'S CATALOG

BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS, JAN. 1963

CHART 35

EXAMPLE
SIZE 12.9' x 8.3' Q = 1000 cfs

	PROJECT	HEADWALL	
		NO BEV.	BEVEL
HW/D	1.42	1.27	1.17
HW (ft)	11.8	10.5	9.7



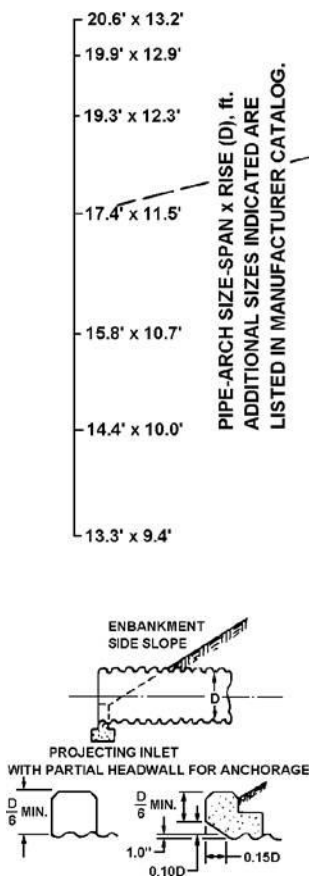
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS
OFFICE OF R&D JULY 1968

HEADWATER DEPTH FOR INLET CONTROLS
STRUCTURAL PLATE PIPE-ARCH CULVERTS
18 in. RADIUS CORNER PLATE
PROJECTING OR HEADWALL INLET
HEADWALL WITH OR WITHOUT EDGE BEVEL

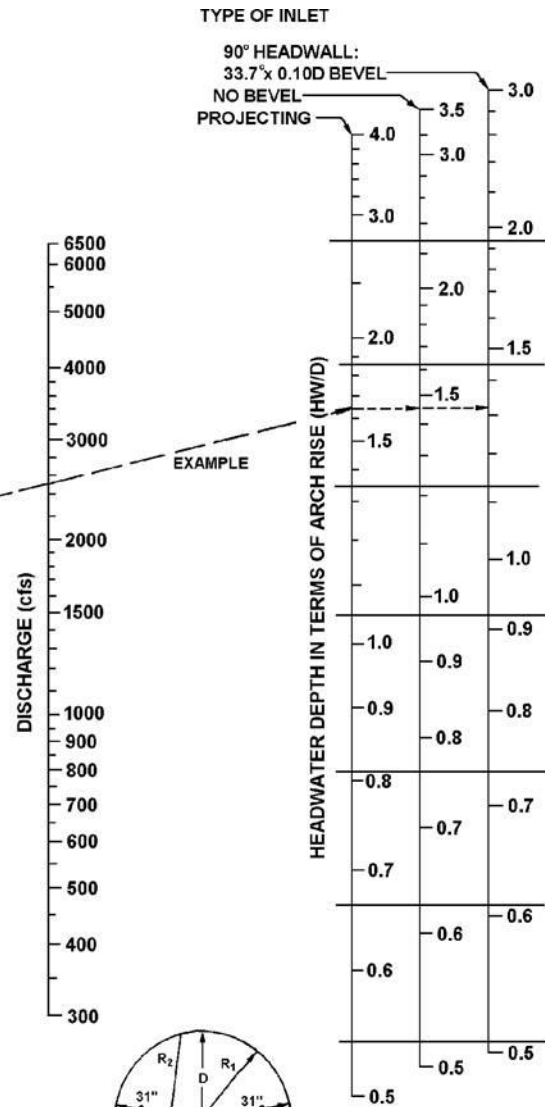
CHART 36

EXAMPLE
SIZE 17.4' x 11.5' Q = 2500 cfs

	PROJECT	HEADWALL NO BEV.	BEVEL
HW/D	1.64	1.45	1.32
HW (ft)	18.9	16.7	15.2

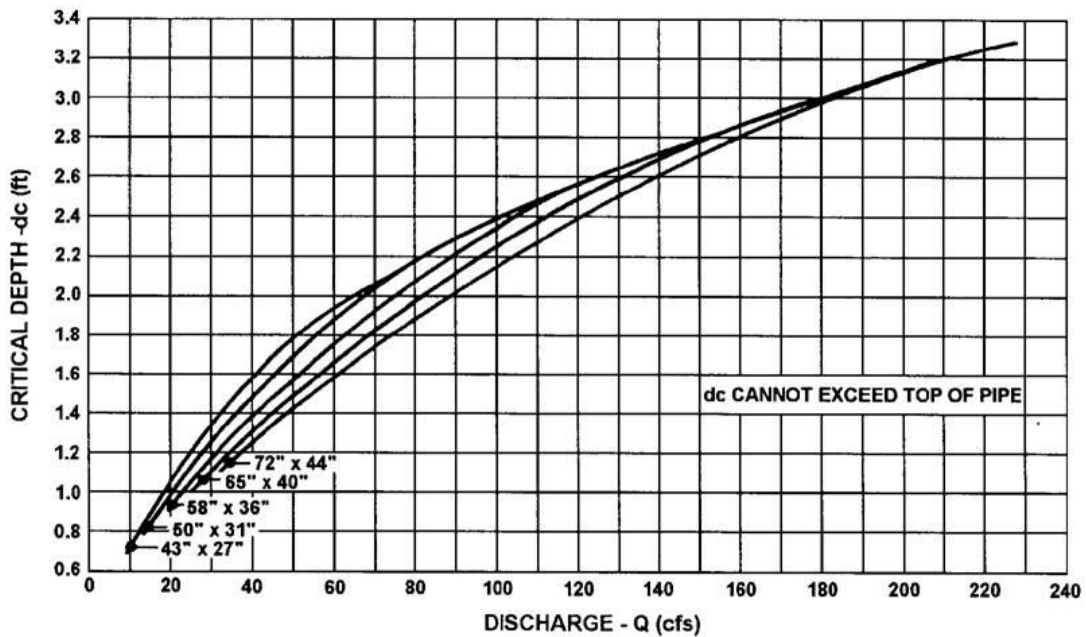
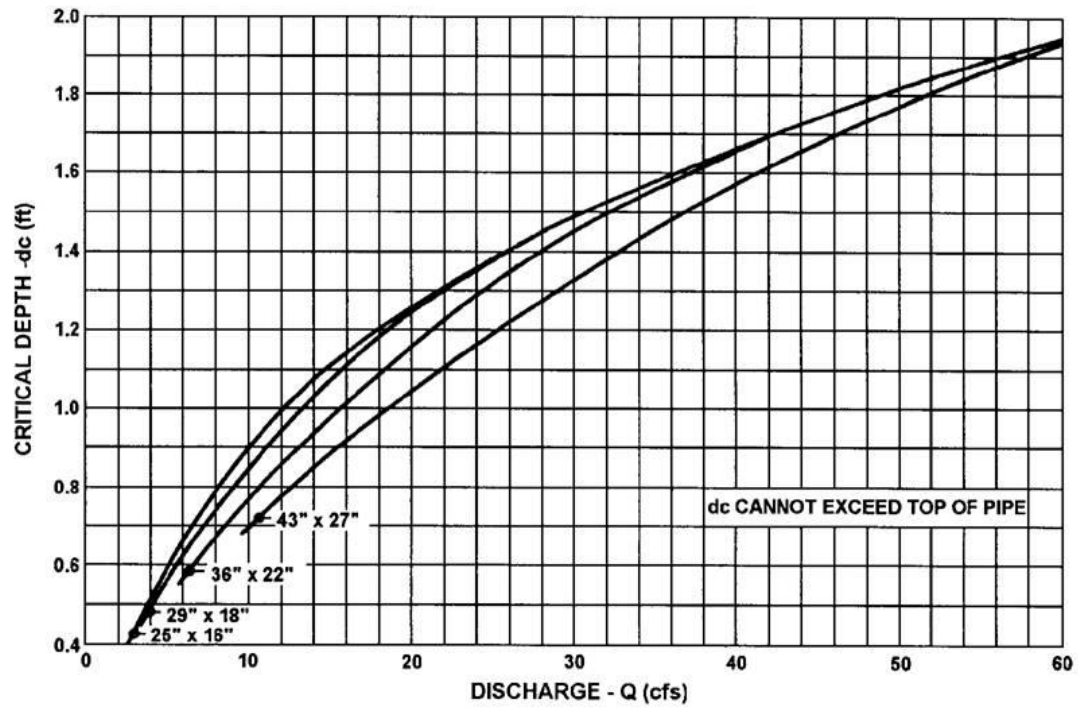


BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS
OFFICE OF R&D JULY 1966



HEADWATER DEPTH FOR INLET CONTROL
STRUCTURAL PLATE PIPE-ARCH CULVERTS
31 in. RADIUS CORNER PLATE
PROJECTING OR HEADWALL INLET
HEADWALL WITH OR WITHOUT EDGE BEVEL

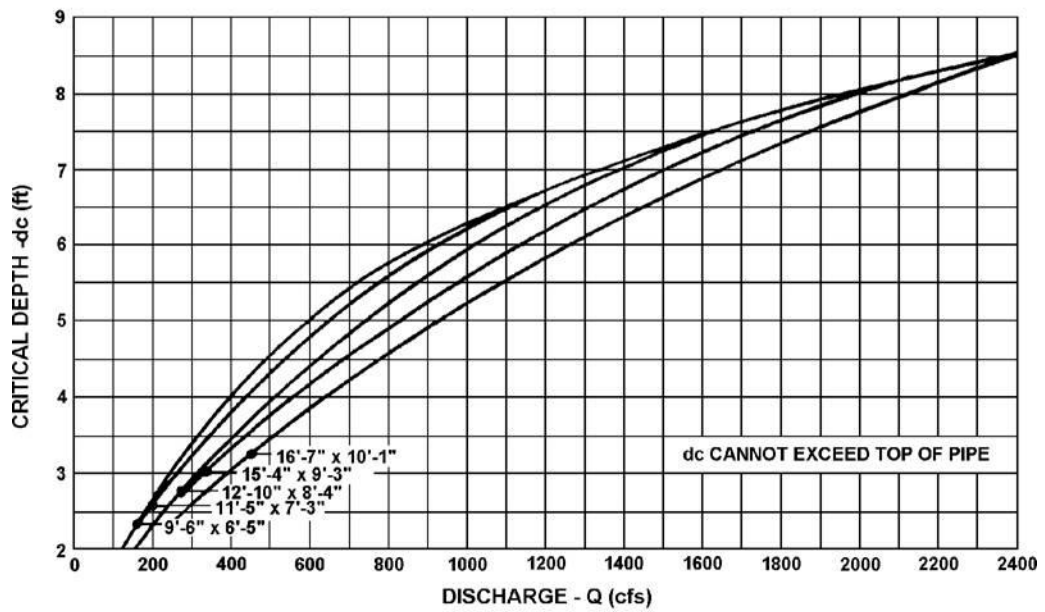
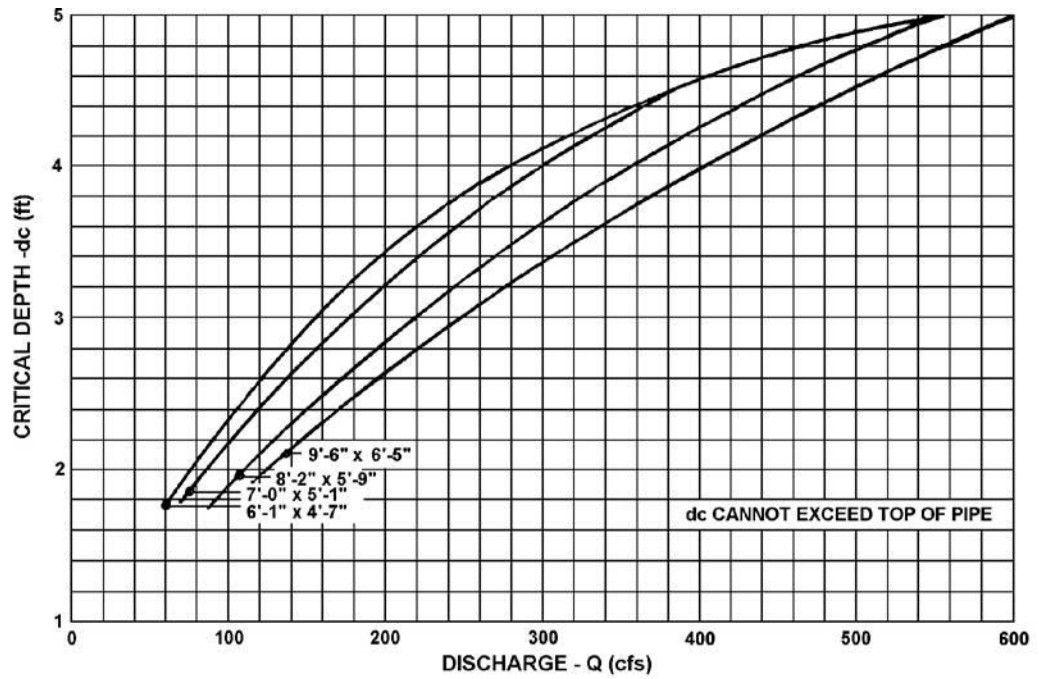
CHART 37



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS
JAN. 1964

CRITICAL DEPTH
STANDARD C.M. PIPE ARCH

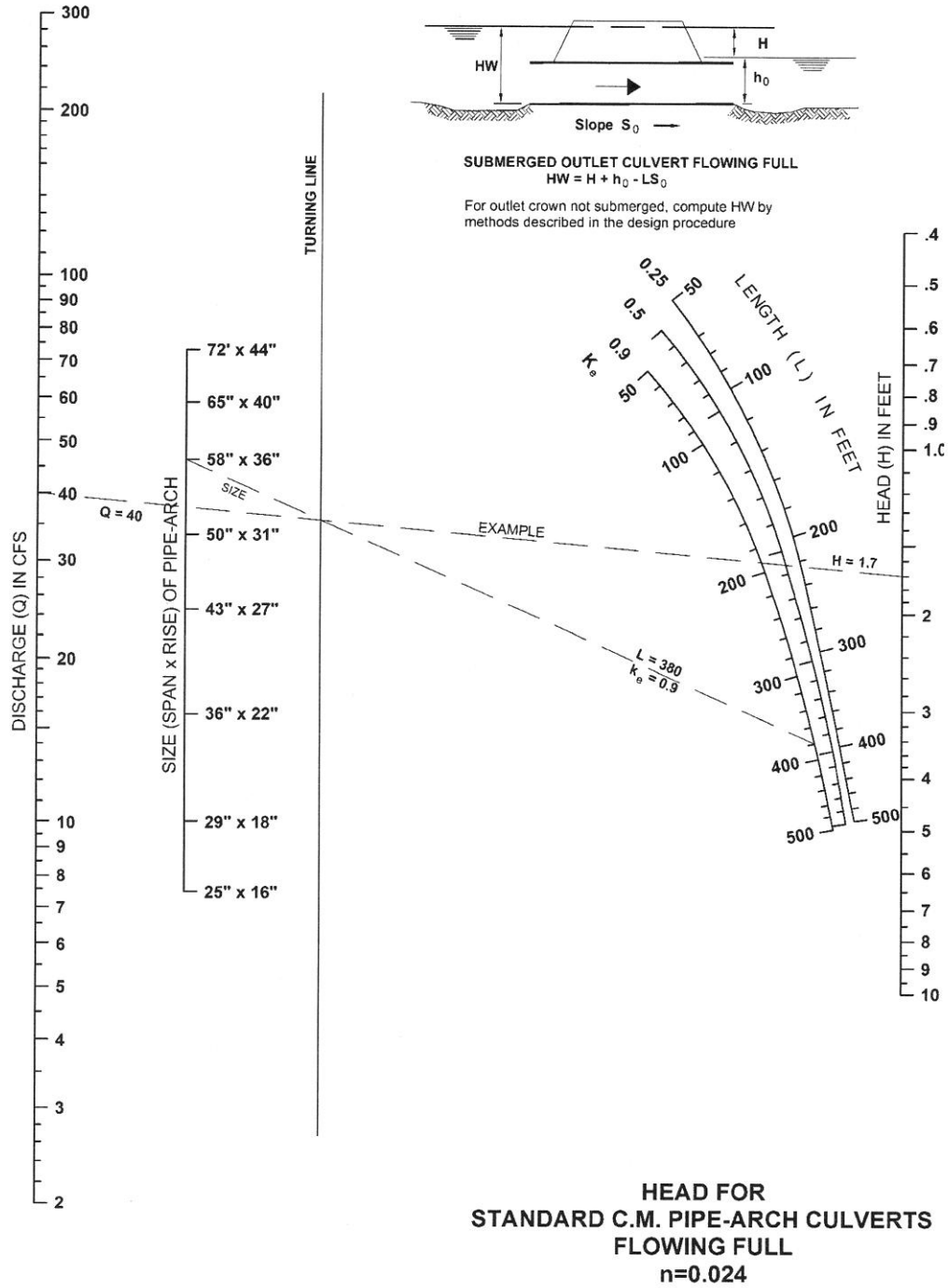
CHART 38



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS
JAN. 1964

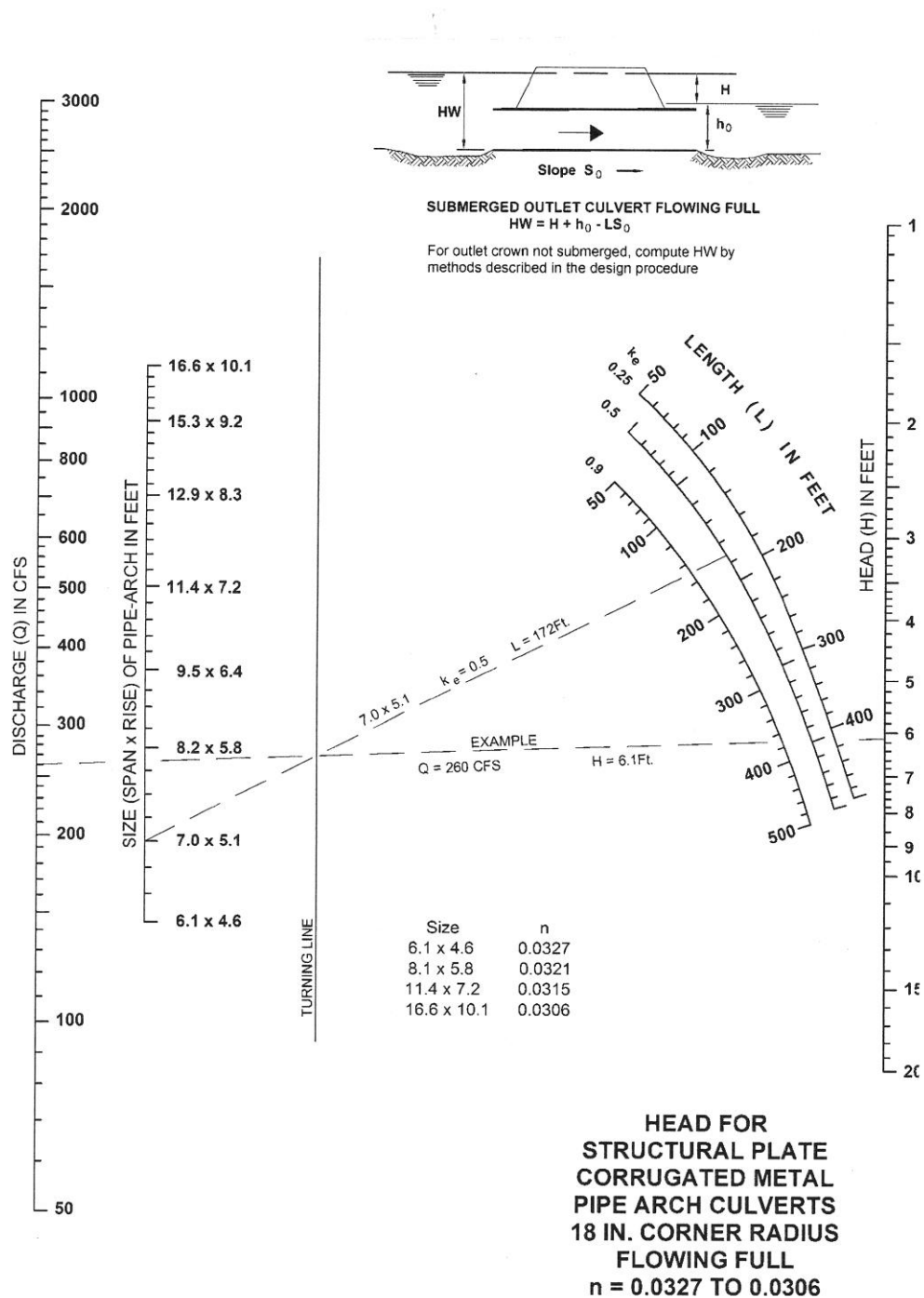
**CRITICAL DEPTH
STRUCTURAL PLATE
C.M. PIPE ARCH
18 in. CORNER RADIUS**

CHART 39



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS, JAN. 1963

CHART 40



BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS, JAN. 1963

CHART 41

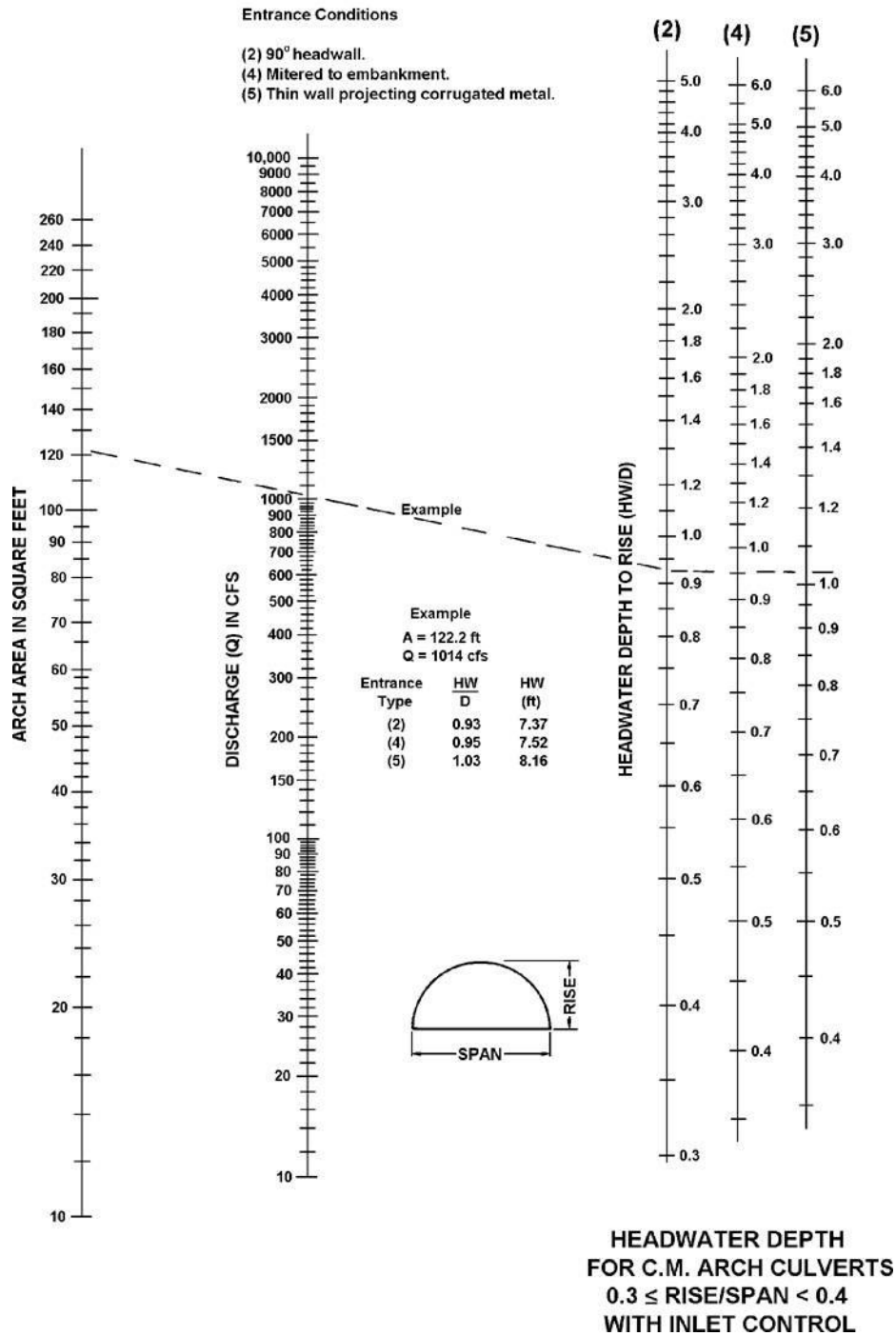
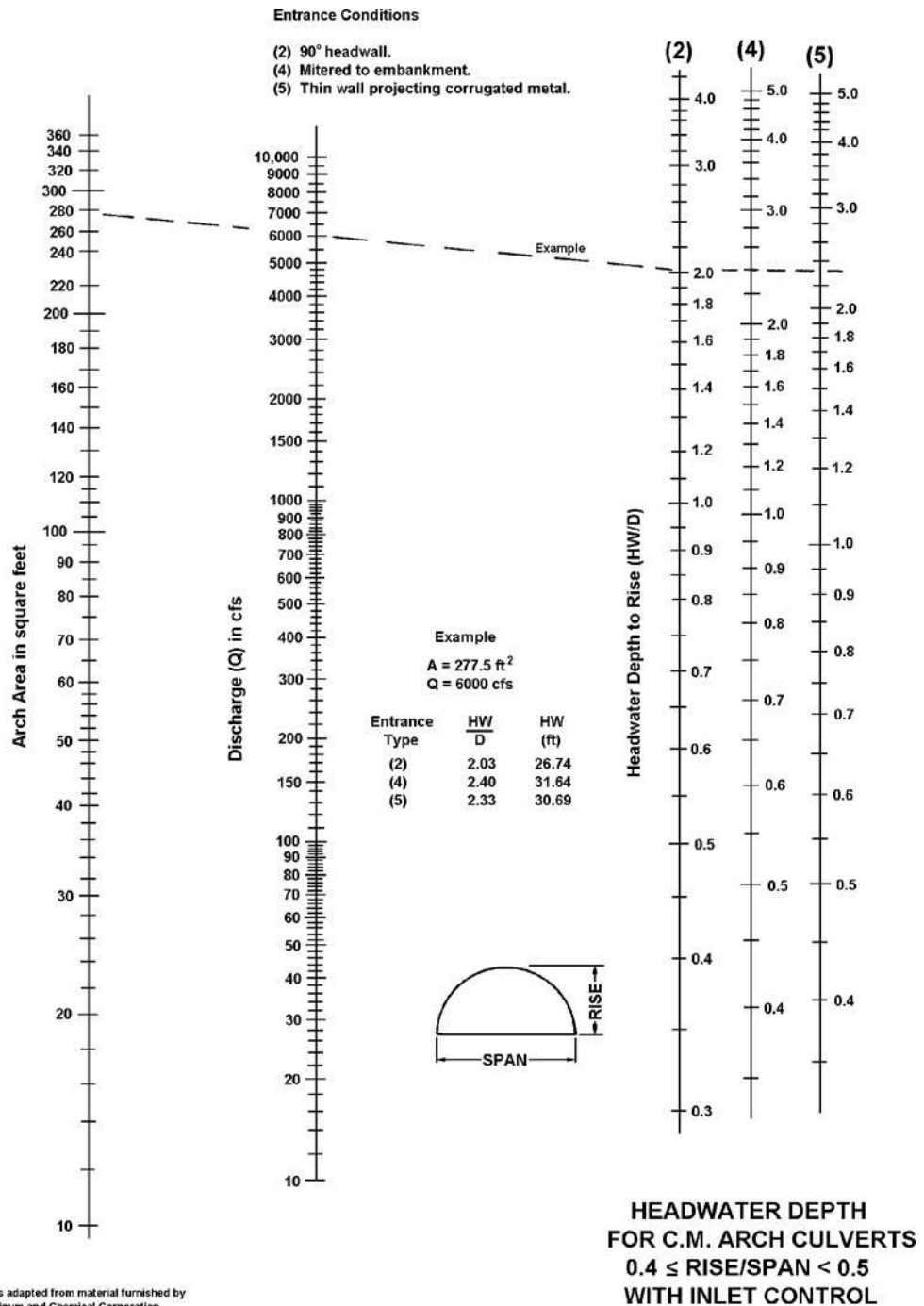
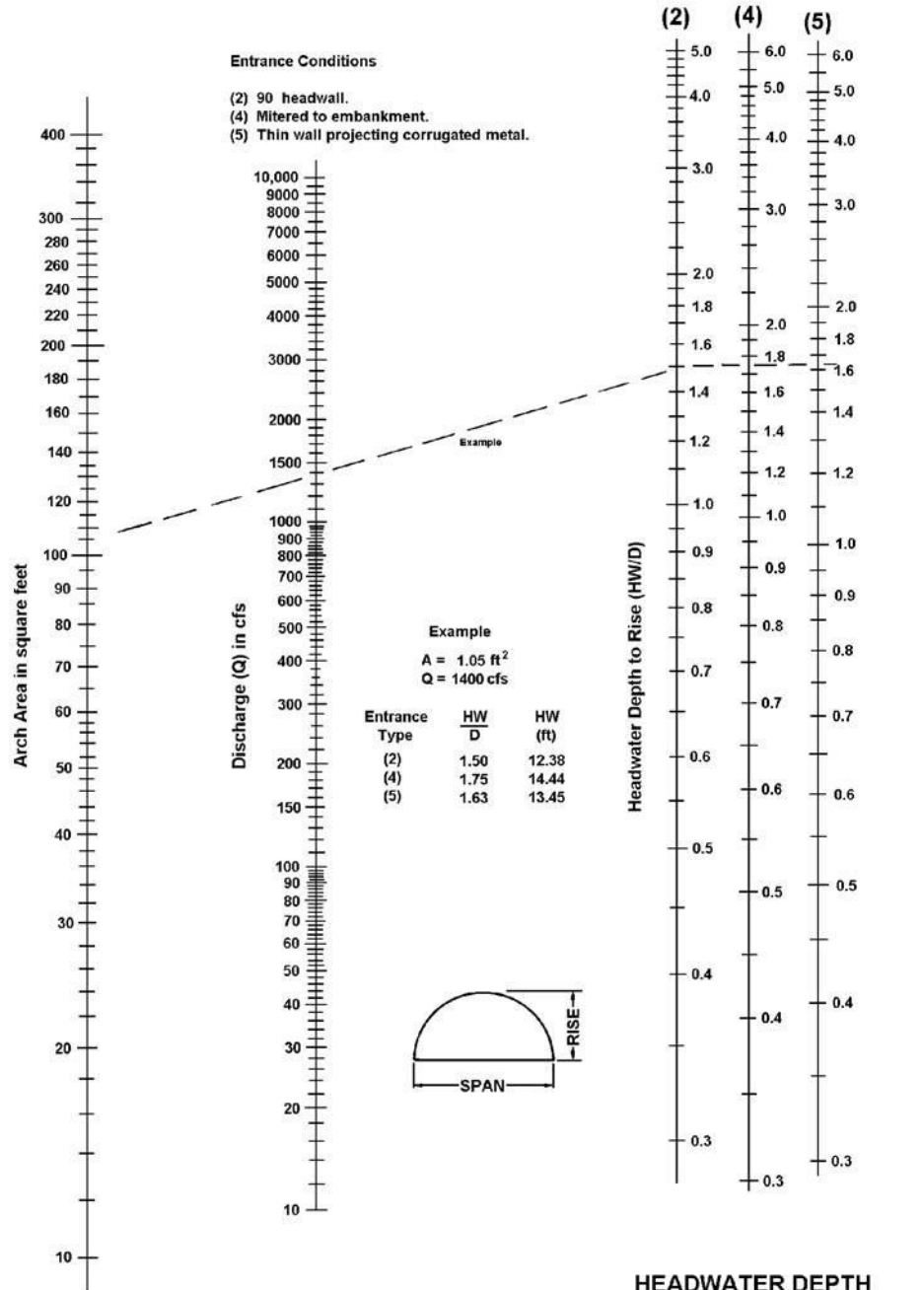


CHART 42



Nomographs adapted from material furnished by Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation. Duplication of this nomograph may distort scale.

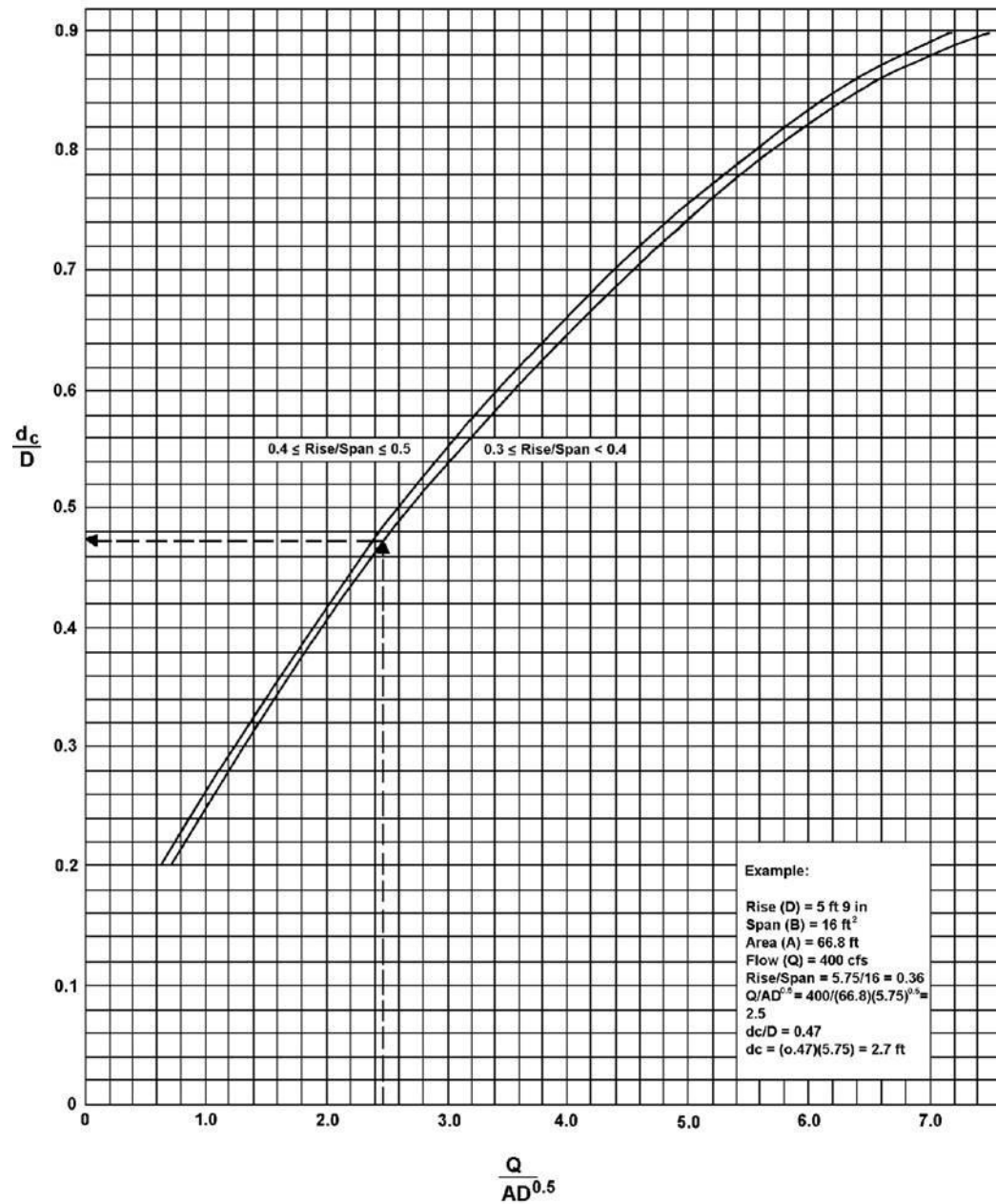
CHART 43



Nomographs adapted from material furnished by Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation. Duplication of this nomograph may distort scale.

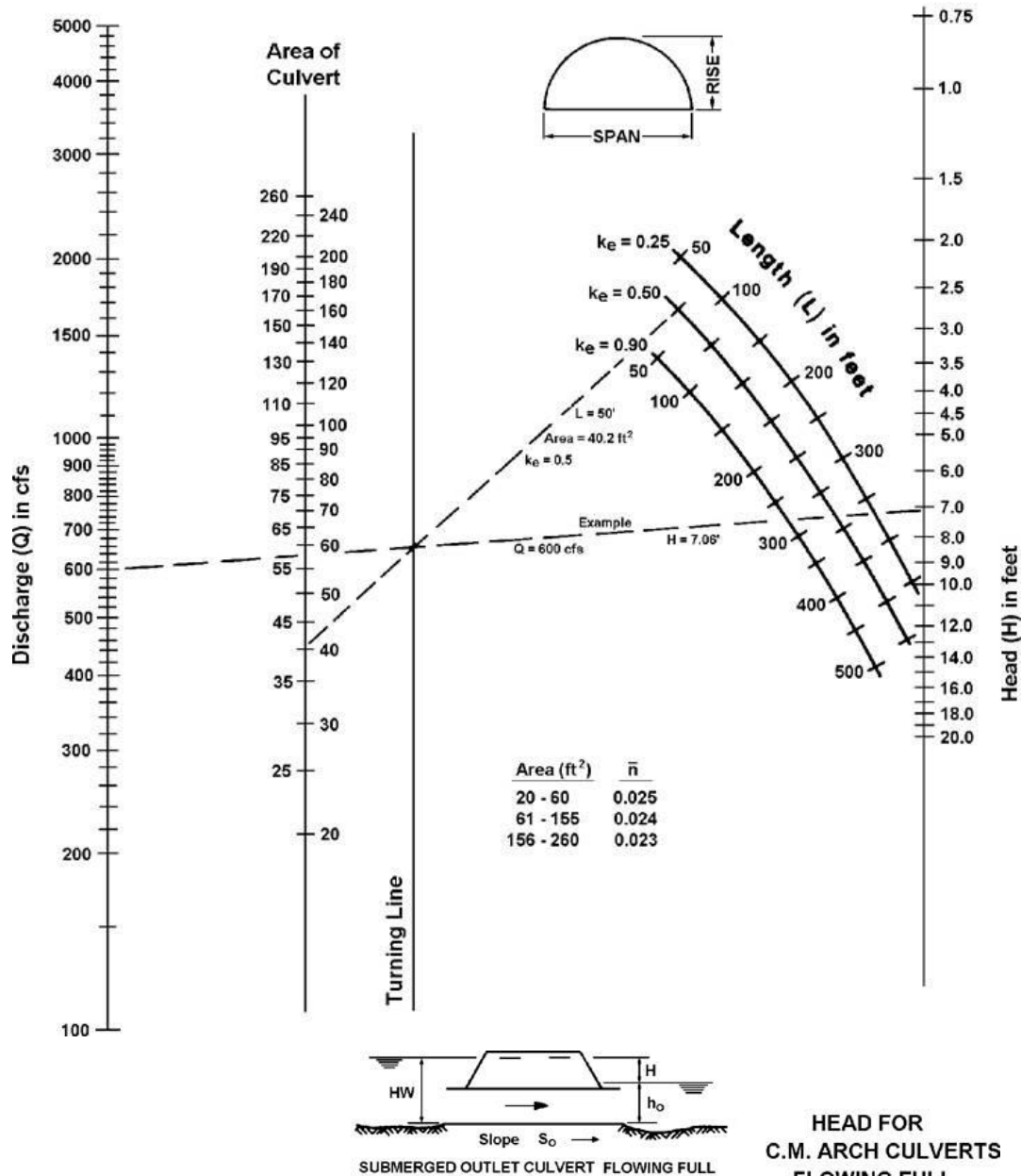
**HEADWATER DEPTH
FOR C.M. ARCH CULVERTS
0.5 ≤ RISE/SPAN
WITH INLET CONTROL**

CHART 44



**DIMENSIONLESS CRITICAL DEPTH CHART
FOR C.M. ARCH CULVERTS**

CHART 45



Nomographs adapted from material furnished by
Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation.
Duplication of this nomograph may distort scale.

**HEAD FOR
C.M. ARCH CULVERTS
FLOWING FULL
CONCRETE BOTTOM
 $0.3 \leq \text{RISE/SPAN} < 0.4$**

CHART 46

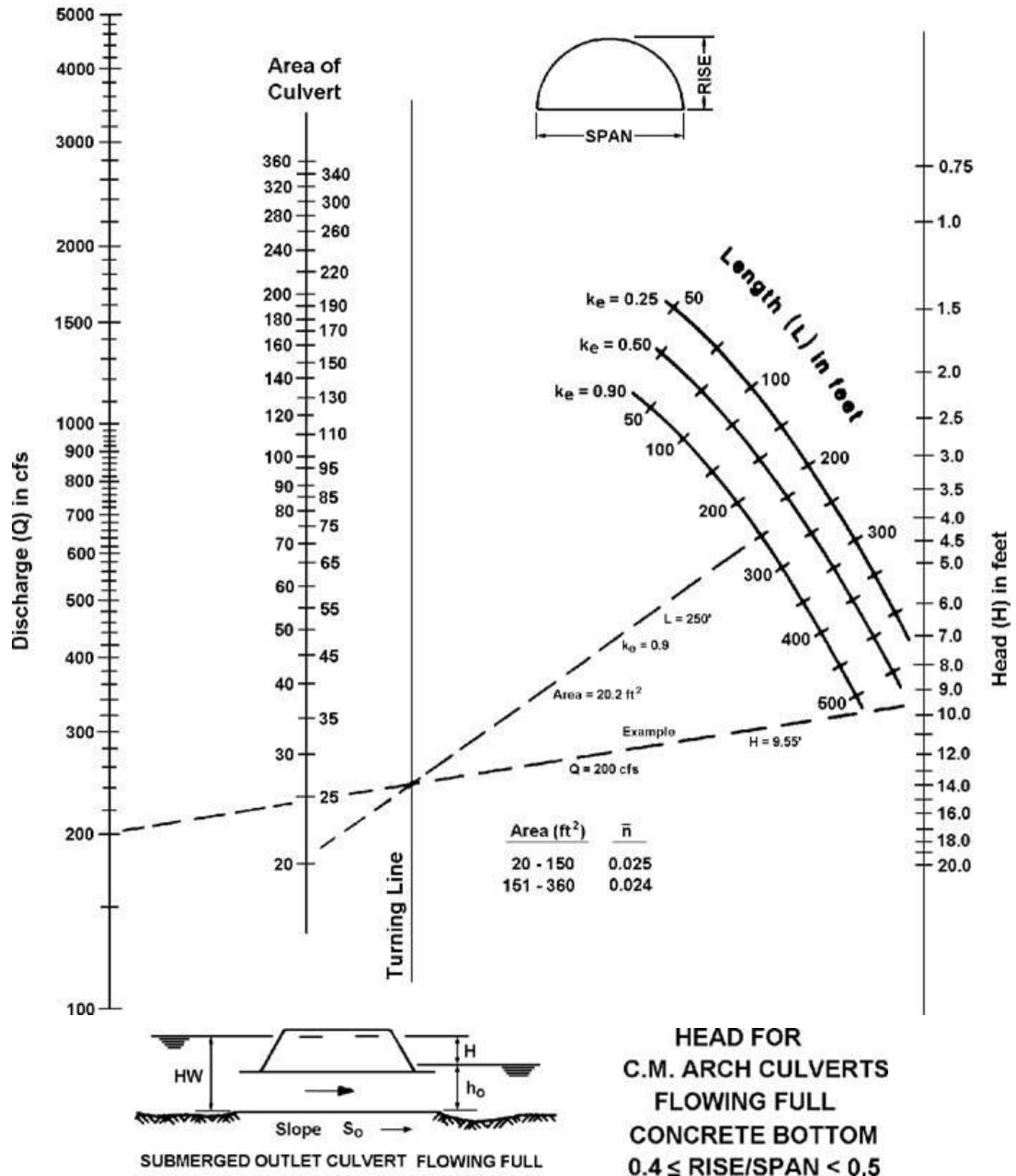
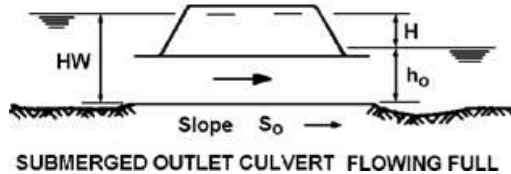
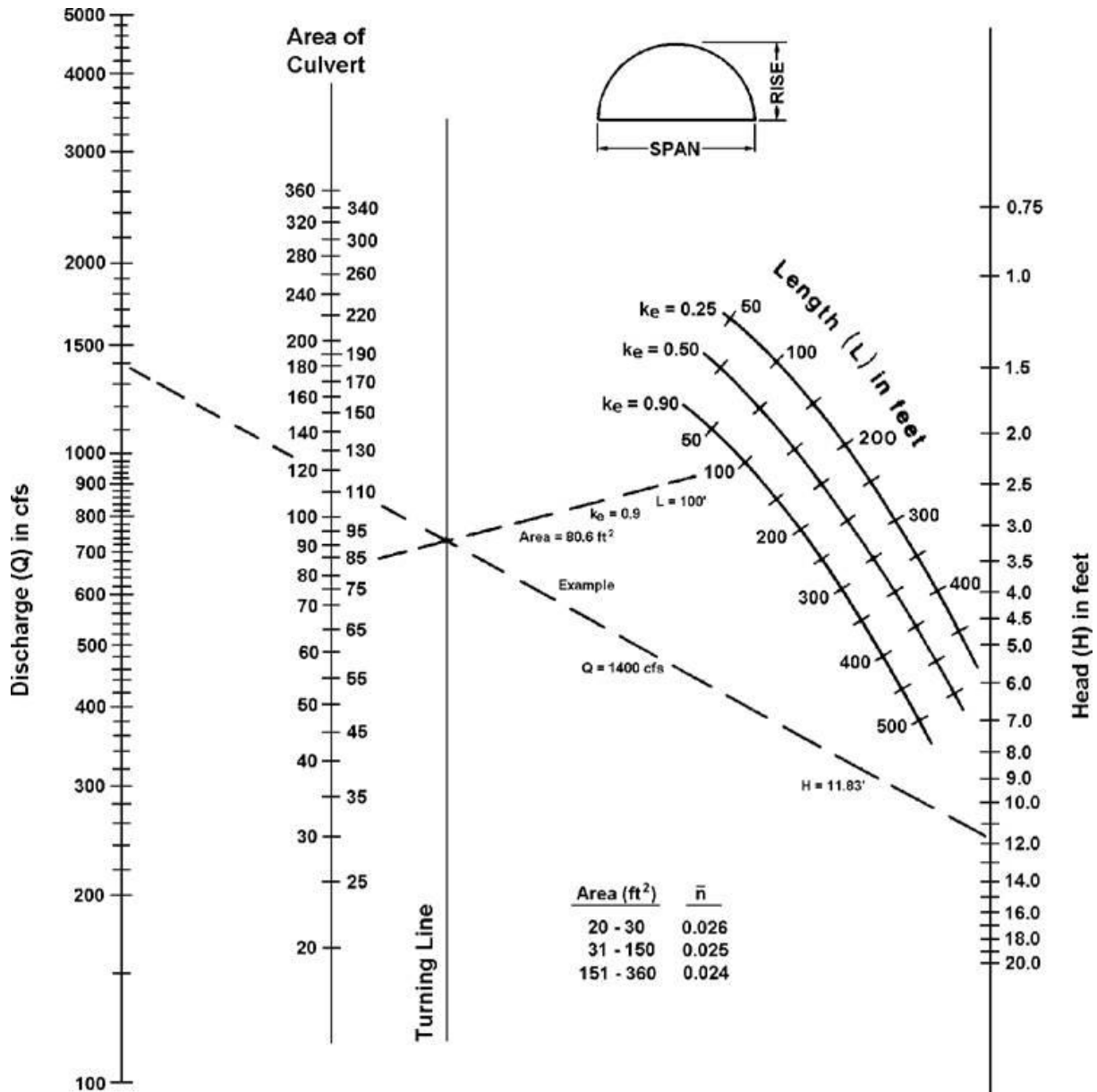
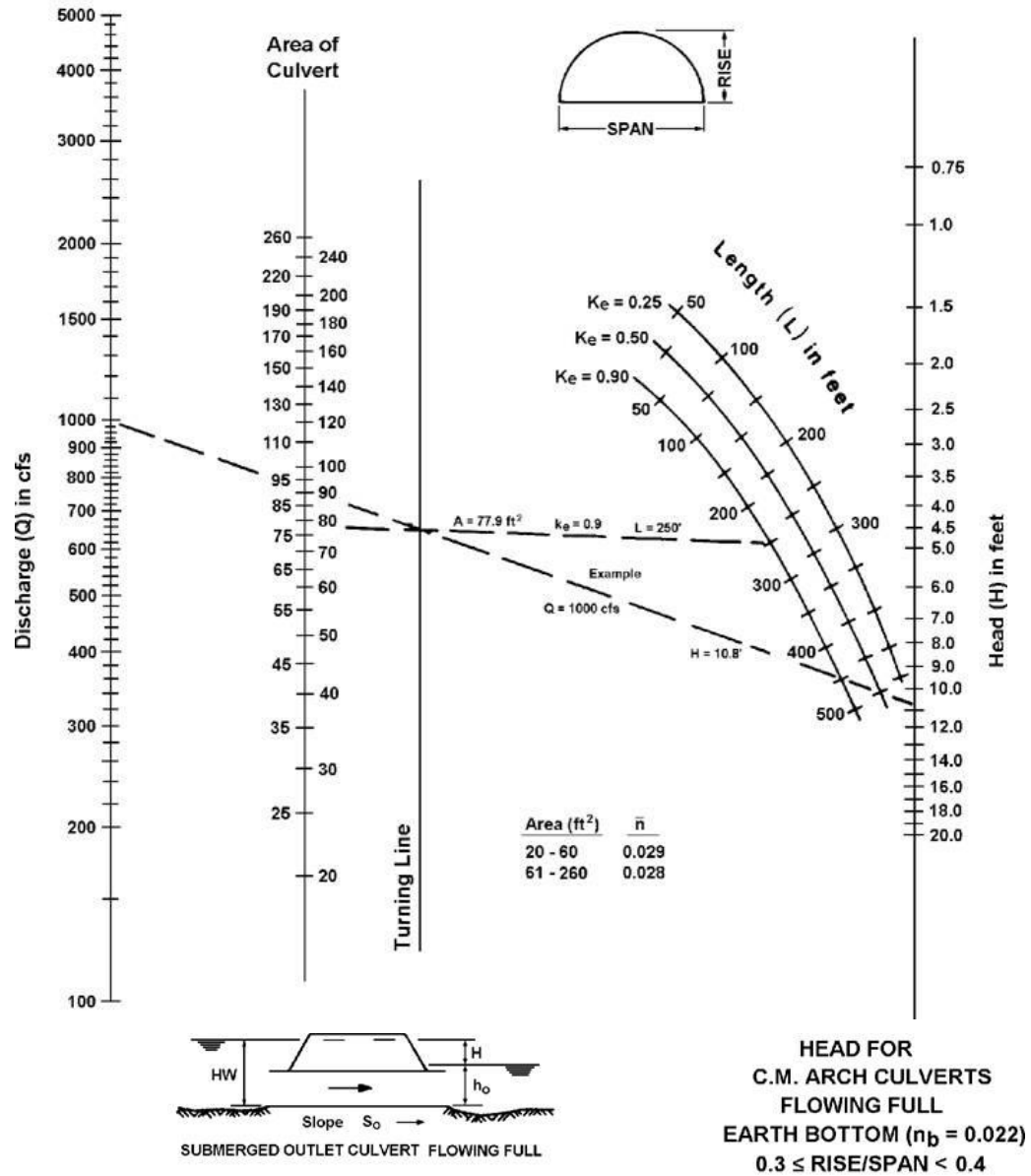


CHART 47



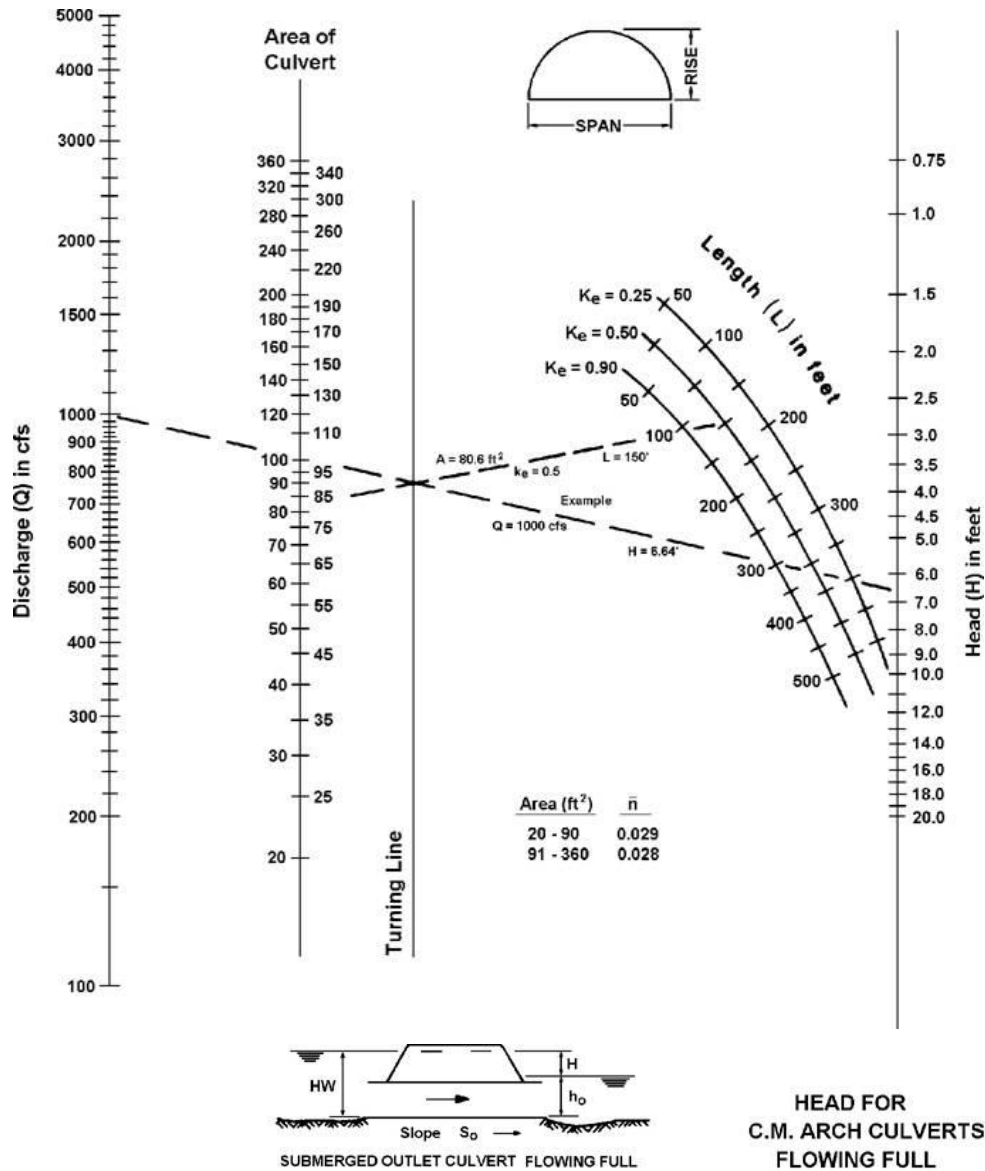
HEAD FOR
C.M. ARCH CULVERTS
FLOWING FULL
CONCRETE BOTTOM
 $0.5 \leq \text{RISE/SPAN}$

CHART 48



Nomographs adapted from material furnished by
 Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation.
 Duplication of this nomograph may distort scale.

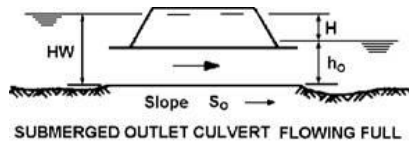
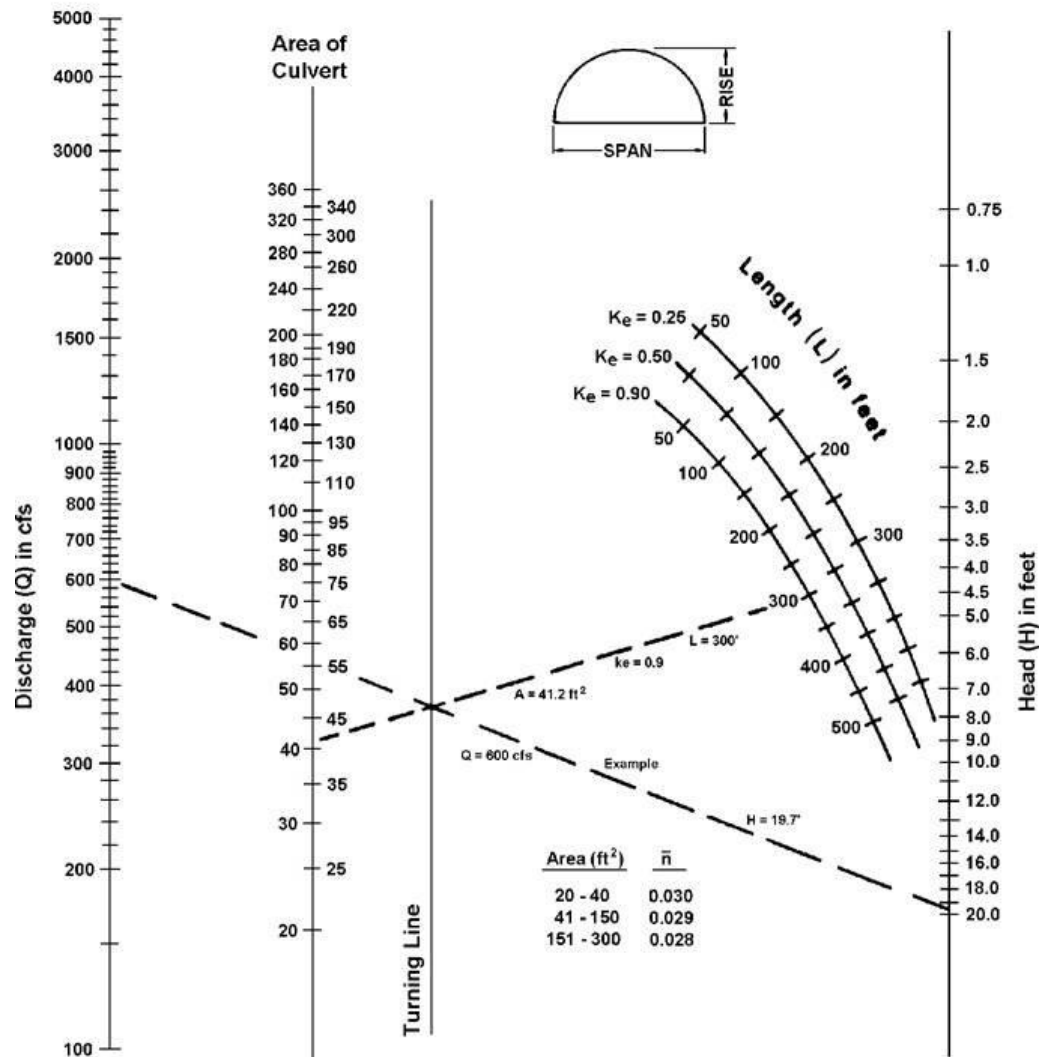
CHART 49



Nomographs adapted from material furnished by Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation. Duplication of this nomograph may distort scale.

**HEAD FOR
C.M. ARCH CULVERTS
FLOWING FULL
EARTH BOTTOM ($n_b = 0.022$)
 $0.4 \leq \text{RISE/SPAN} < 0.5$**

CHART 50



SUBMERGED OUTLET CULVERT FLOWING FULL

**HEAD FOR
C.M. ARCH CULVERTS
FLOWING FULL
EARTH BOTTOM ($n_b = 0.022$)
 $0.5 \leq \text{RISE}/\text{SPAN}$**

CHART 51

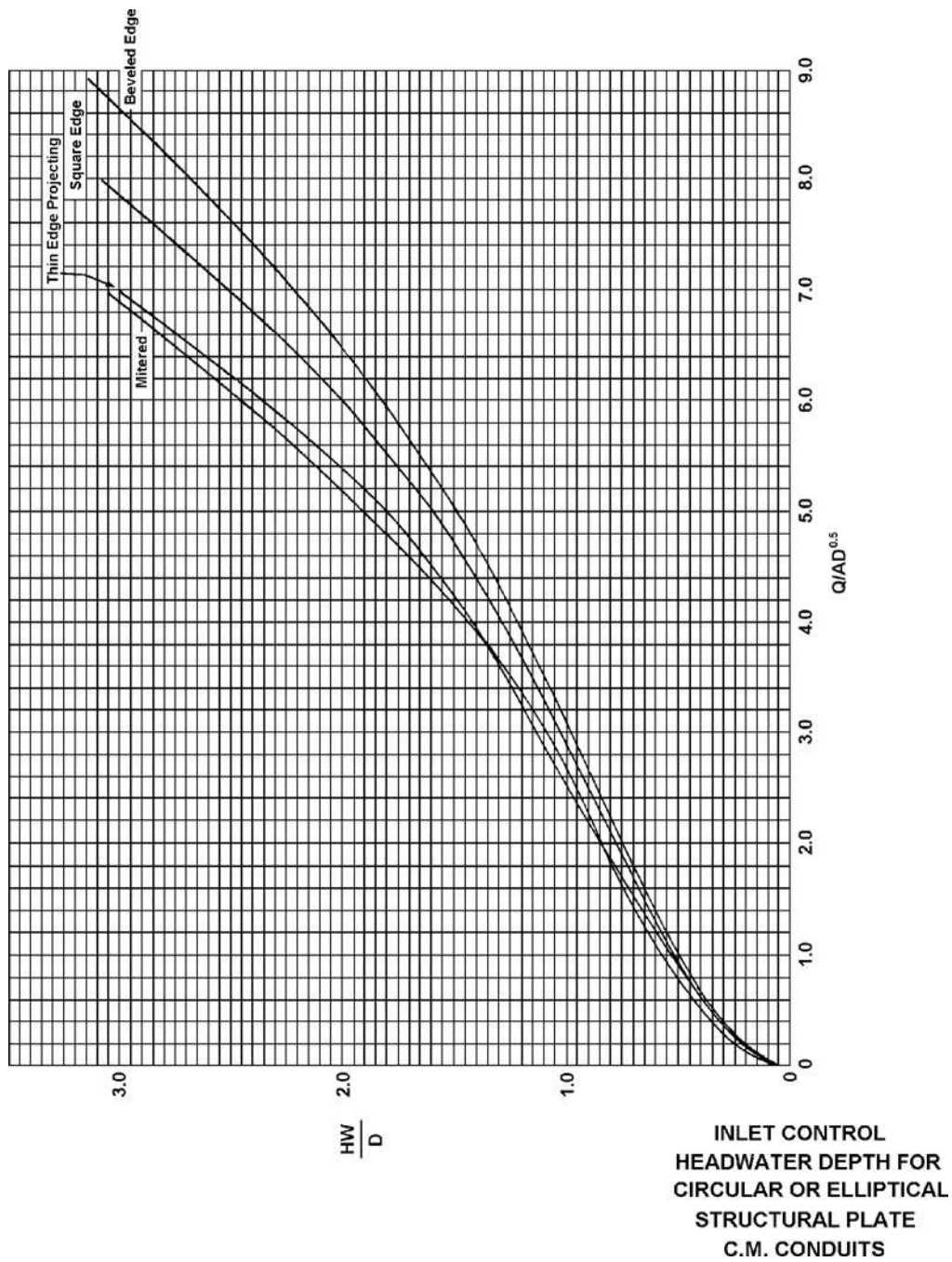


CHART 52

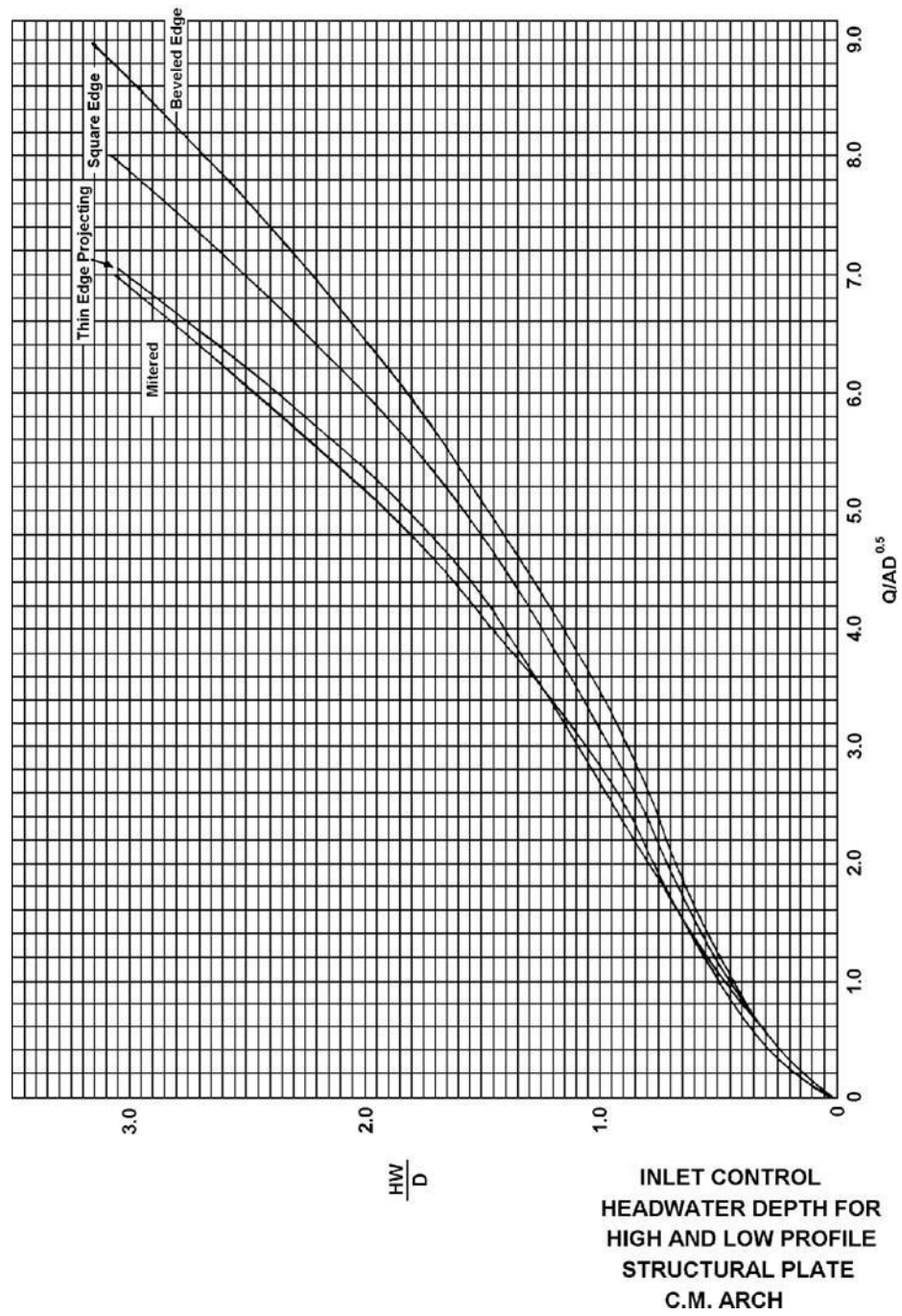
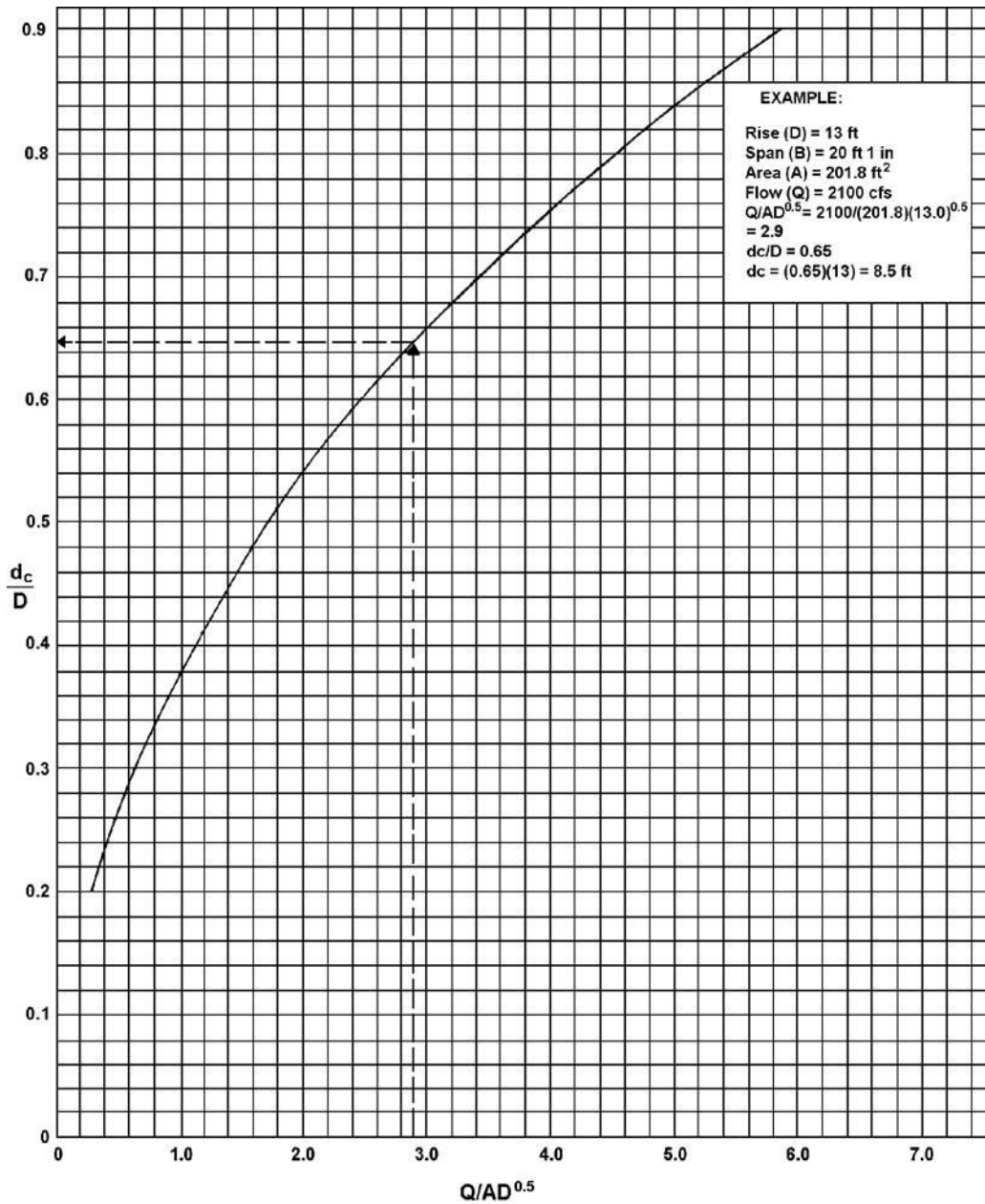
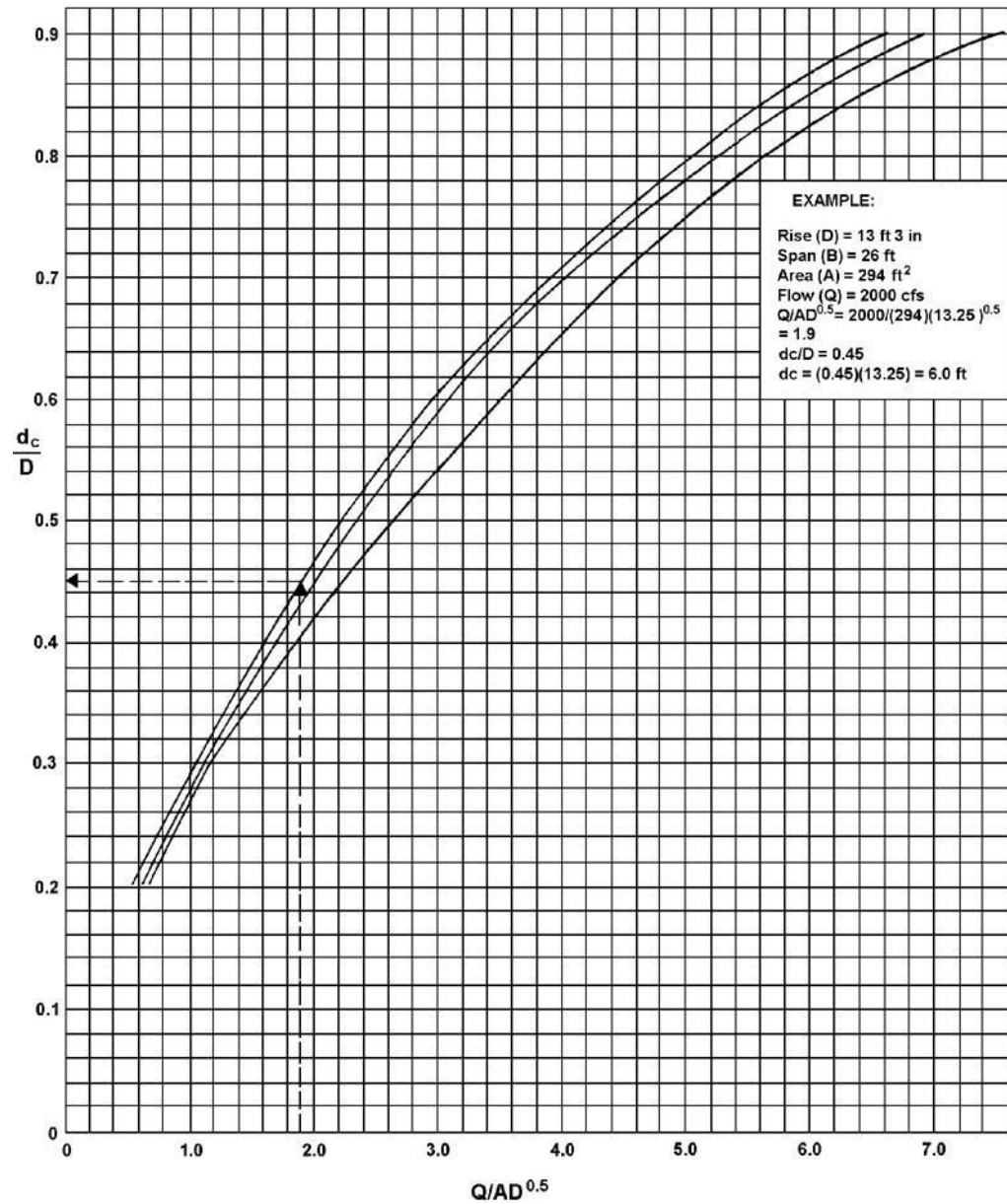


CHART 53



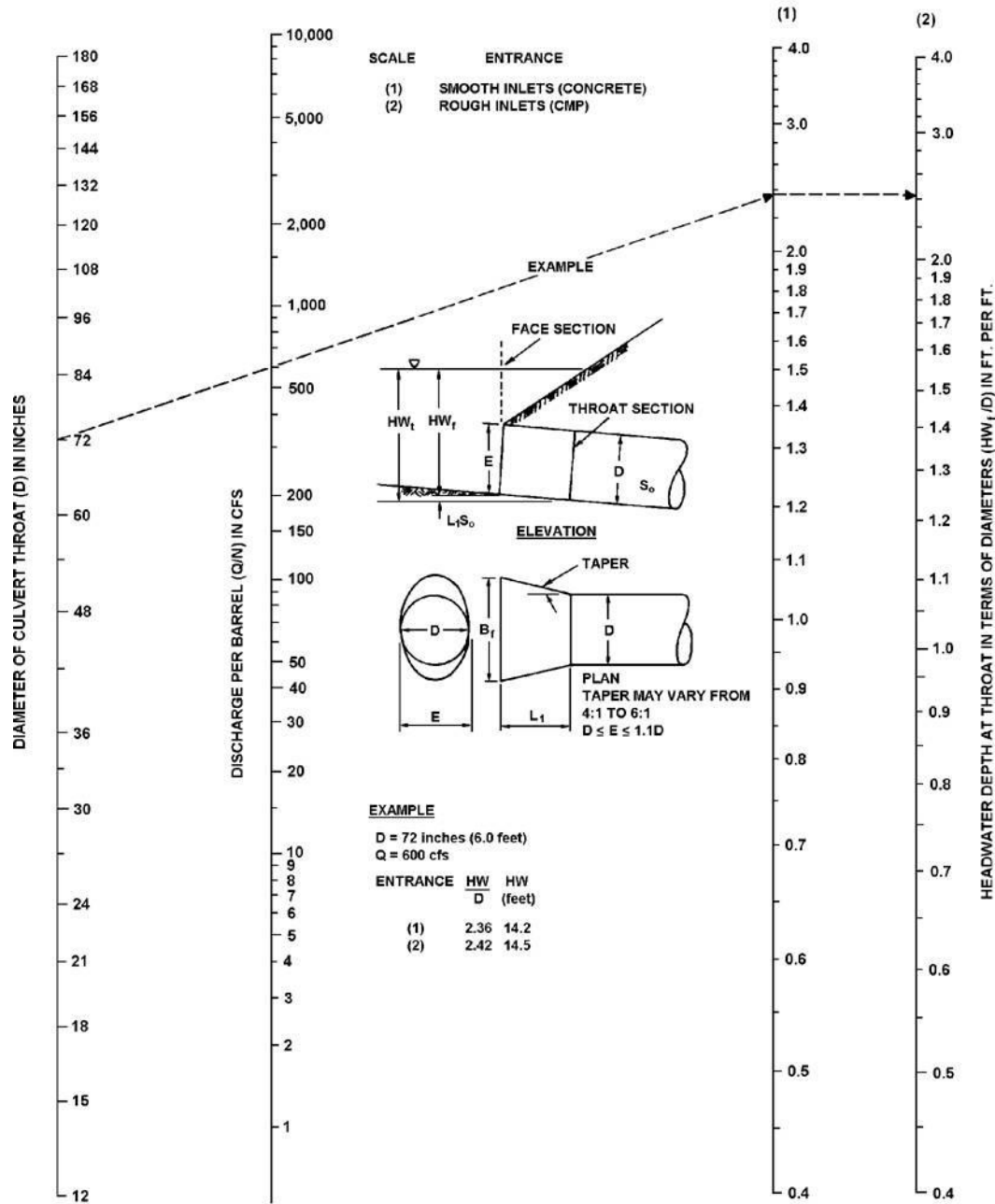
**DIMENSIONLESS CRITICAL DEPTH CHART
 FOR STRUCTURAL PLATE
 ELLIPSE LONG AXIS HORIZONTAL**

CHART 54



**DIMENSIONLESS CRITICAL DEPTH CHART
 FOR STRUCTURAL PLATE
 LOW- AND HIGH-PROFILE ARCHES**

CHART 55



THROAT CONTROL
FOR SIDE-TAPERED INLETS
TO PIPE CULVERT
(CIRCULAR SECTION ONLY)

CHART 56

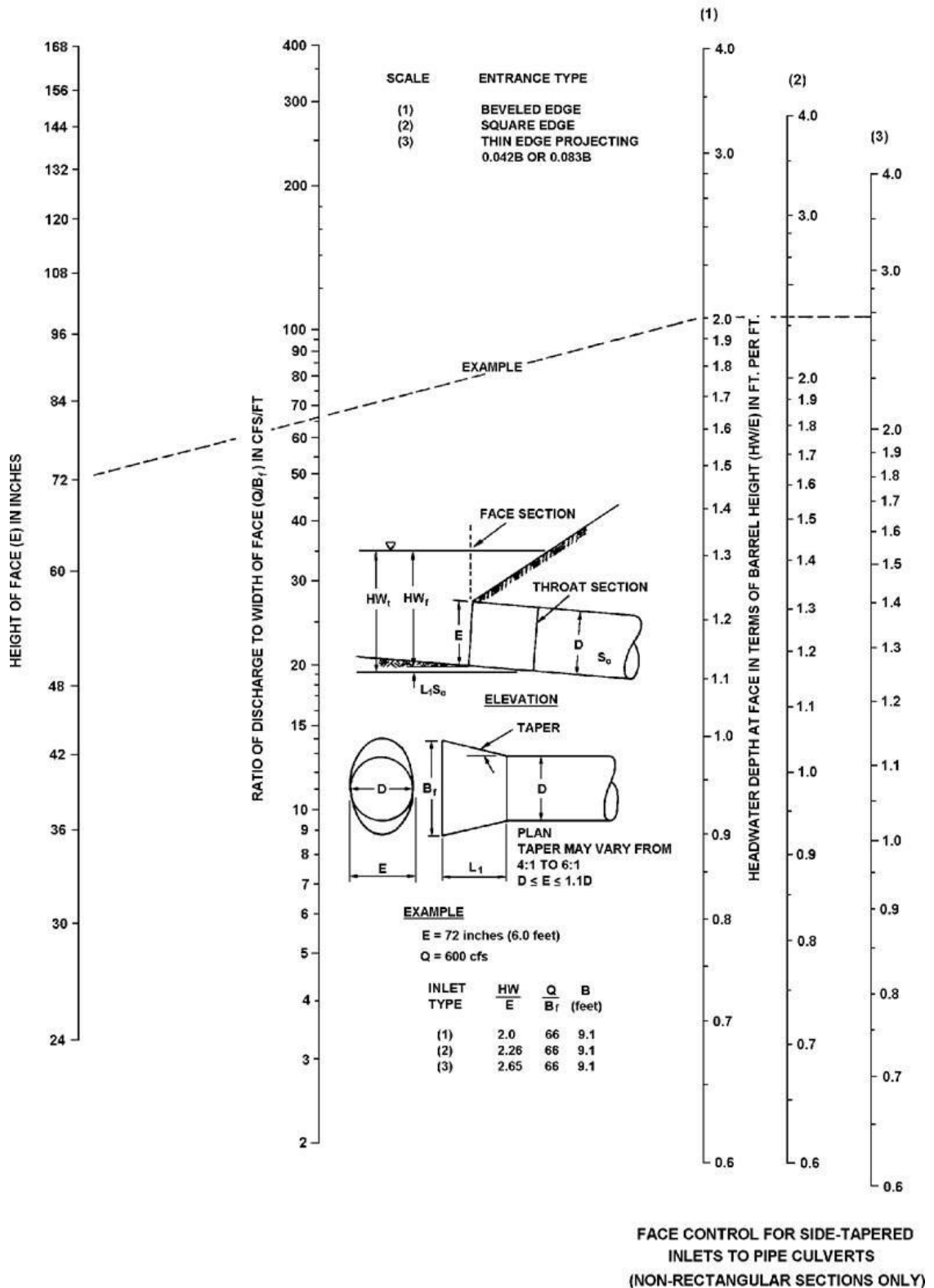


CHART 57

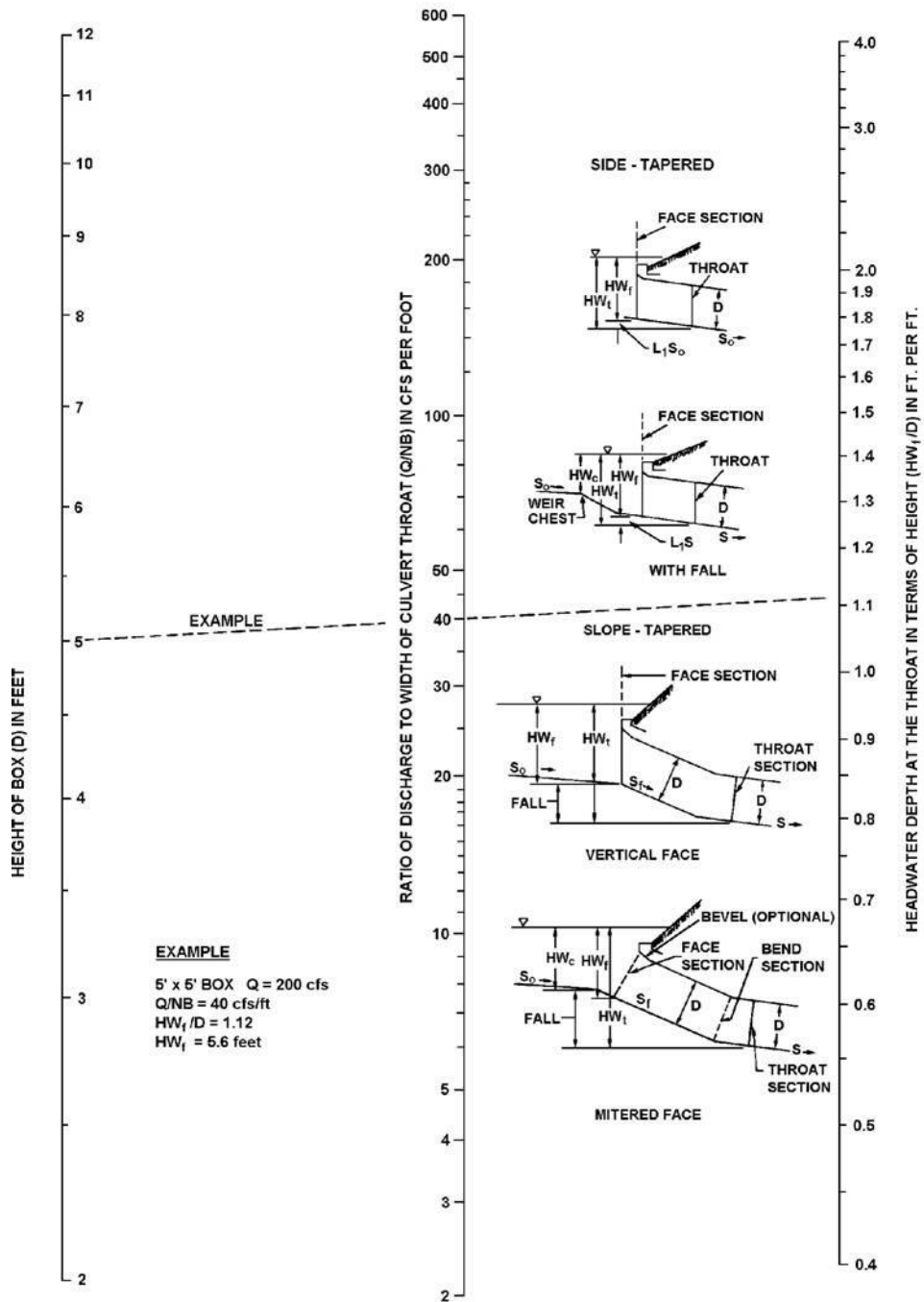
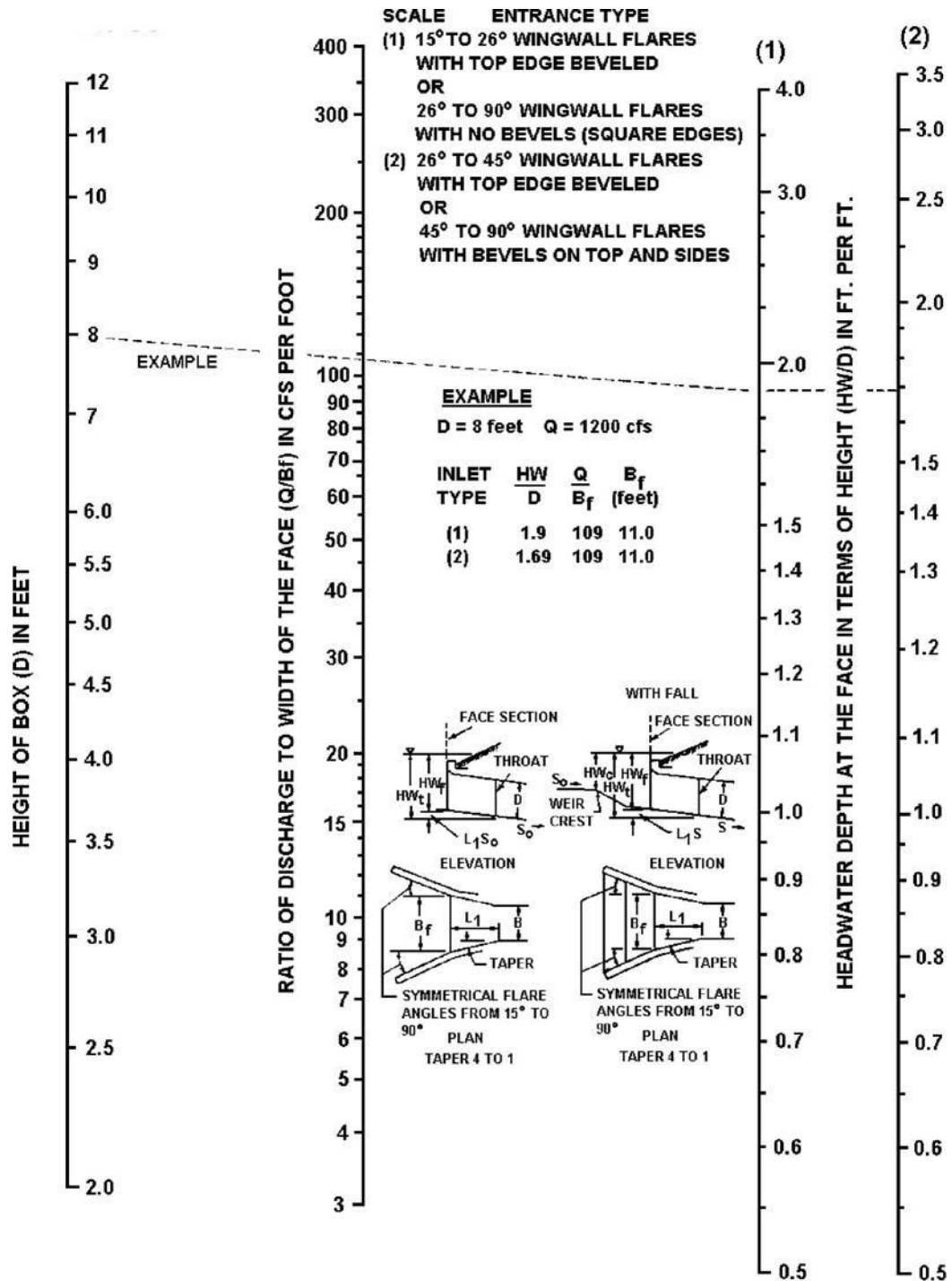


CHART 58



**FACE CONTROL FOR BOX CULVERTS
WITH SIDE-TAPERED INLETS**

CHART 59

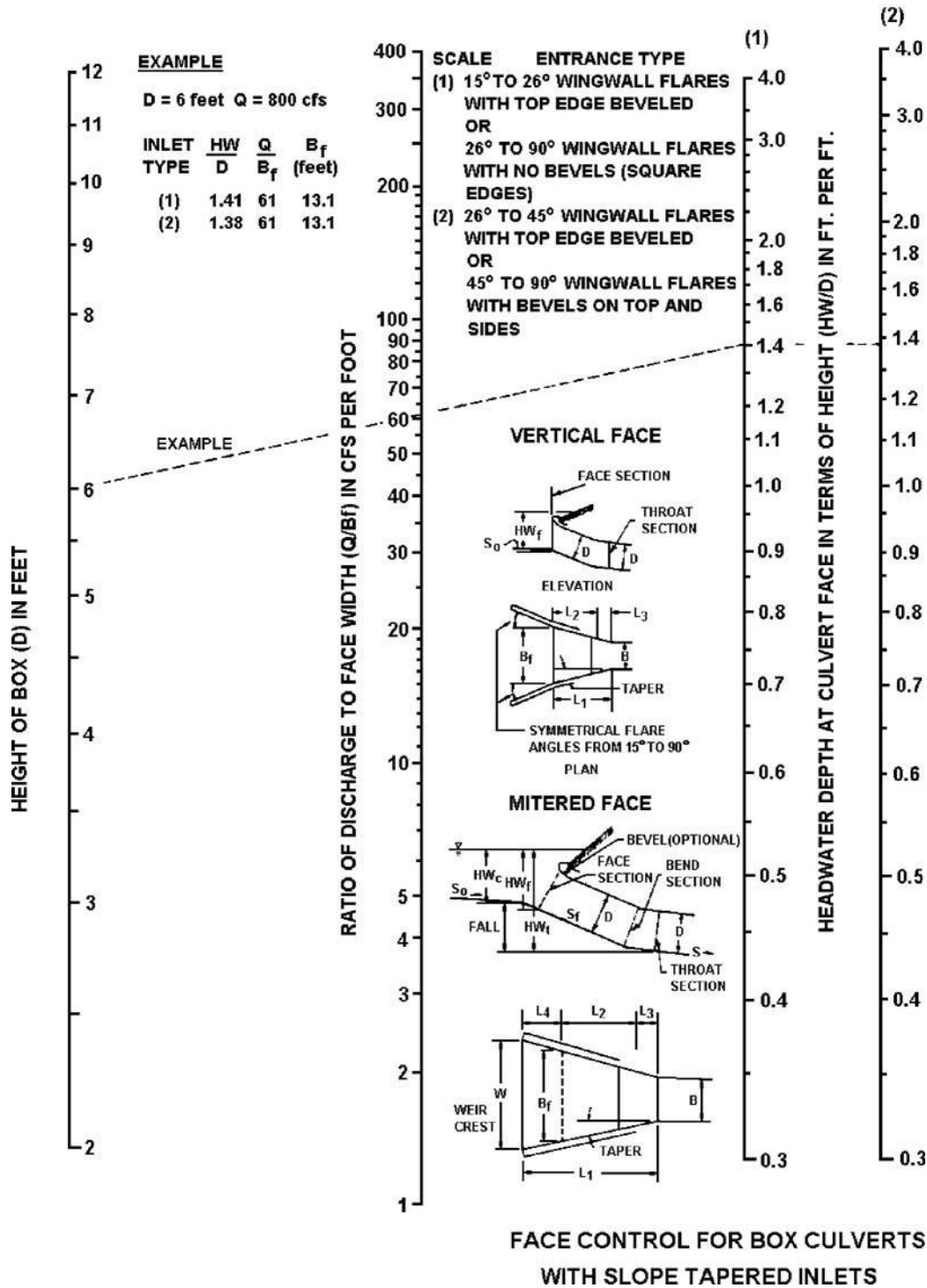
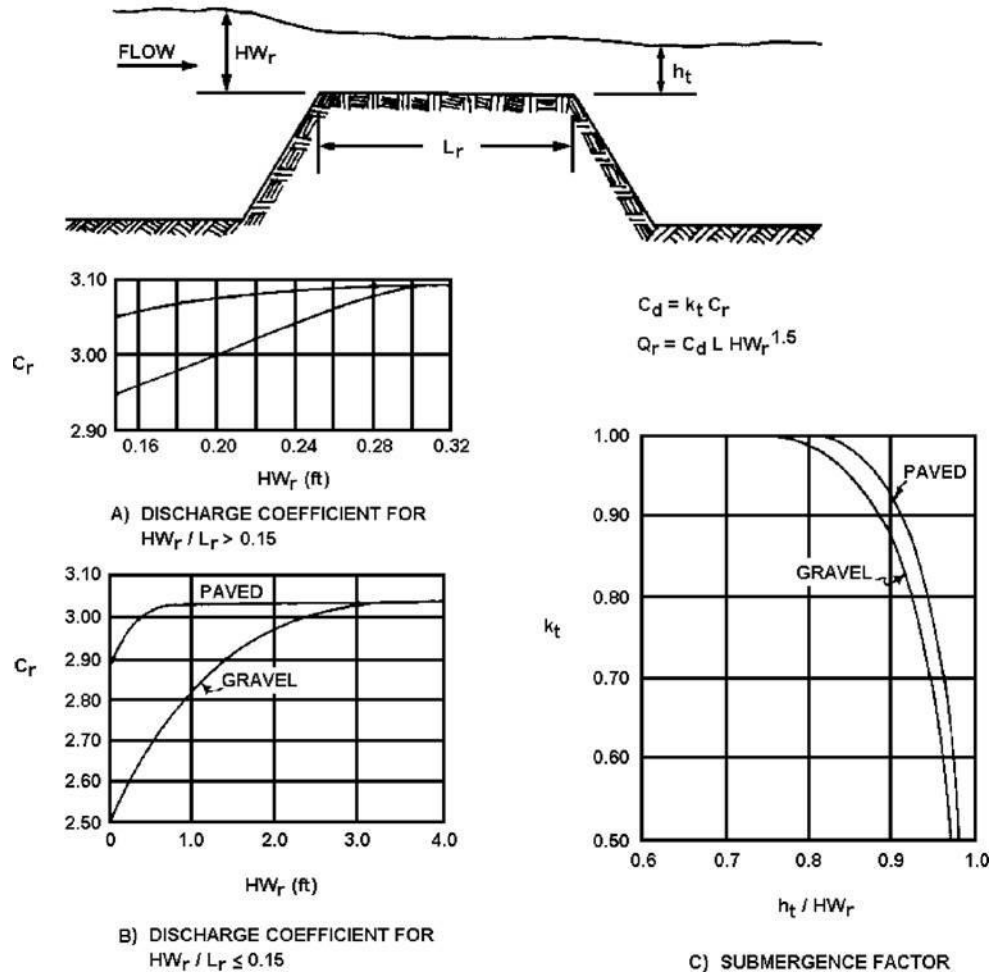


CHART 60



DIMENSIONLESS COEFFICIENTS FOR ROADWAY OVERTOPPING